THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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U.S. LAWMAKERS REACH DEAL ON $900BN STIMULUS PACKAGE

Top Capitol Hill negotiators have sealed a $900-billion Covid-19 economic relief package for businesses as well as individuals

DIRECT BENEFITS TRANSFER TO AMERICANS

The agreement, announced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Sunday, would establish a temporary $300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a $600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for hard-hit businesses and money for schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction

MORE STIMULUS MEASURES ON THE CARDS

- The agreement came after months of battling and posturing
- Delays in finalising the pact prompted the House to pass a one-day stopgap spending bill to prevent a govt shutdown on Sunday
- "In 31 days, when Joe Biden enters the White House, more help will be on the way," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi | **P11**

2nd largest

STIMULUS PACKAGE AFTER THE $2.3-TN PACT ANNOUNCED IN MARCH 2020

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

THUS SPAKE CHIEF MINISTER

The government is taking steps to ensure that investor sentiment is not affected

We will extend all possible support to companies

Wistron and Toyota incidents will not impact Brand Karnataka

We are committed to hold the Global Investors Meet 2020-21

FULL INTERVIEW ON | P4

CM: Wistron violence will not dent Brand Karnataka

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

A week after violence at Wistron's iPhone manufacturing plant at Narasapura in Kolar, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said it was a stray incident that has been addressed adequately and it will not affect the Brand Karnataka image.

The large-scale violence by workers hit national and international headlines, catching the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The State Government, competing with neighbouring states to attract investments, was planning to hold the Global Investors Meet (GIM) this year, but could not due to Covid. Yediyurappa told *The New Indian Express* that the State Government stands by its earlier decision of holding GIM 2020-21. "But appropriate decision will be taken depending on the industrial scenario post the Covid situation," he said.

On the Wistron violence and labour unrest at the Toyota Kirloskar Plant in Bidadi, he said they are one-off incidents. "We have been in constant touch with both the companies. The Government of India and we are taking steps to ensure that investor sentiment is not affected," he added.

After the violence at Wistron on December 12, the police, taking swift action, arrested all 128 workers for vandalising the office premises.

Minister for Small and Large-Scale Industries Jagadish Shettar said the government is not ruling out the possibility of violence being premeditated. "The deputy commissioner and police are conducting the inquiry, and we will get a clear picture once the probe is done."

He too said the incident will not damage Brand Karnataka as the state is always known for its industry-friendly policy. "We have told the company authorities that the government will extend all facilities and cooperation. We will also provide them with police protection. We appeal to them to restart the unit at the earliest," he said.

> **We have been in constant touch with both the companies (Wistron and Toyota). The Government of India and we are taking steps to ensure that investor sentiment is not affected** — B S Yeddiyurappa, CM

India too imposes UK flight ban

Temporary curbs from Tuesday midnight till December 31 as new Covid strain found 70% more transmissible than the original one; All passengers who have come in to be tested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA on Monday joined a slew of nations that temporarily barred flights from the UK to firewall themselves from a highly infectious strain of Covid-19 that was recently detected in Britain. The variant, called N501Y, is 70% more transmissible than the original Covid strain, and has already been found elsewhere, including Denmark, the Netherlands and Australia.

The suspension of flights comes into effect from Tuesday midnight and will continue till December 31. The decision was taken following recommendations by the Covid-19 joint monitoring group and the Covid-19 national task force whose emergency meetings were held on Monday.

As a measure of abundant caution, passengers arriving from the UK in all transit flights (flights that have taken off or those that will reach before the ban comes into effect) will be mandatorily subjected to RT-PCR tests on arrival to detect Covid-19 cases.

Those testing positive will be under mandatory institutional quarantine. States have been advised to also monitor those who test negative; they need to remain in isolation for at least seven days at home.

Sources in the Health Ministry said scientists and the ICMR have sounded out to keep a watch for any new strain of Covid in any part of the country even though the pandemic seems to have stabilised in most parts of India over the last several weeks. **P10**

MUTATED VIRUS FOOTPRINT

First found in Kent in the UK on Sept 20, later in Wales and London. Also in Greater Glasgow in Scotland

- 9 cases in Denmark
- 1 each in the Netherlands and Italy
- 4 in Belgium
- 2 in Australia

FLIGHT STATS

60+

Weekly flights by Air India and others including Vistara and British Airways between India and the UK

Air bubble

Arrangement exists between the 2 countries

Vistara has one daily London flight from Delhi

Air India has **23 FLIGHTS** to the UK per week. Also started the Delhi-Amritsar-Birmingham sector on December 11

138 flyers from UK slip into K'taka without test

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AT least 138 air passengers arriving from the United Kingdom, where a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus was reported a fortnight ago, have entered Karnataka after flying in without Covid-19 negative certificates or being subjected to tests on arrival.

With the Civil Aviation Ministry banning all incoming flights from the UK, and the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry issuing directions on Monday to all states and Union territories to put in place testing and quarantine protocols for air travellers on arrival from the UK, the State Government is now tracing these passengers.

The State Government is yet to establish how many such air travellers have arrived in Karnataka from the UK over the past fortnight.

The state Health and Family Welfare Department on Monday evening issued a circular directing Bengaluru and Mangaluru international airports to provide the lists of passengers who have arrived from the UK from since December 7.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar revealed that on Sunday and Monday, of the 291 air passengers who arrived from the UK on a British Airways flight, 49 travelled without Covid-19 certificates, and neither were they subjected to RT-PCR tests. Of the 246 passengers who arrived on an Air-India flight, 89 came without a Covid negative certificate and remained untested.

"These passengers are asymptomatic, but for safety, we have sought their details from the civil aviation ministry and are tracing them. Once traced, RT-PCR tests will be conducted on them." said Sudhakar.

CONTINUED ON: P3

EXPRESS READ

Sensex sinks 1,407 pts amid new Covid-19 fears

Mumbai: Sensex crashed 1,407 points on Monday as a new strain of the coronavirus in the UK clobbered global markets. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tanked 432.15 points or 3.14 per cent to finish at 13,328.40.

Cong leader Motilal Vora passes away at 93

New Delhi: Veteran Congress leader Motilal Vora, a staunch Gandhi family loyalist who had a political career spanning almost five decades, died at a hospital here on Monday following post-Covid-19 complications, his family said. He was 93. **P9**

Actor Arjun Rampal questioned by NCB

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal was on Monday questioned for nearly six hours by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in connection with a drug case lodged following the death of filmstar Sushant Singh Rajput, an official said.

Five projects cleared, likely to create 13K jobs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE State High-Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC) headed by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has given clearance for five projects that bring in investment of ₹26,659 crore, and are expected to generate employment for 13,341 people.

Clearance was given for five companies at the SHLCC meeting held on Monday. Elest Pvt Ltd plans to set up an electric vehicle manufacturing unit on 85 acres in Hubballi-Dharwad, with an estimated investment of ₹14,255 crore, and will create 867 jobs. The same company was given clearance to establish a lithium-ion cells and battery manufacturing unit on 88 acres in Hubballi-Dharwad, with an investment of ₹6,339 crore, and is expected to generate 1,804 jobs.

Hyunet Private Ltd, which is setting up a plant to manufacture lithium batteries and electric vehicles on 300 acres in Chikkaballapura, is expected to invest ₹1,825 crore and create employment for 2,210 people. Hyderabad-based Miraculum Green Power Pvt Ltd was given clearance to establish a 110-MW hybrid wind solar power project at an investment of ₹1,290 crore. The project, coming up on 700 acres in Jagalur taluk of Davanagere is likely to create 2,820 jobs.

Another Hyderabad-based firm, Sanali Power Pvt Ltd, will also up a hybrid wind solar power project on 1,710 acres in Jagalur taluk of Davanagere. It will invest ₹2,950 crore and is expected to create 5,640 jobs.

New strain can't dodge vaccines, say experts

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA & CHETANA BELAGERE @ New Delhi / Bengaluru

JUST as we thought the end of pandemic was in sight, a new mutation of SARS CoV 2 — detected in the UK — has brought fresh concerns. The discovery has also put a question mark over the Covid vaccines in the works. Will the vaccines be effective against the new strain?

However, experts say the vaccines will be effective against the new strain as well. Virologists point out that viruses mutate all the time; while there is no need for panic, there is no room for complacency either.

"Though the mutation is said to have caused havoc in the UK, we don't have to panic," said Dr T Jacob John, virologist and ex-professor at Christian Medical College, Vellore. "However, we may have to buy a couple of weeks to not let the virus enter and spread fast and burden our healthcare system," he added.

P3,10

Consumer's king, discoms to pay for poor service

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ELECTRICITY consumers in India now have the right to uninterrupted quality power supply, with the Centre on Monday notifying the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules. The new guidelines also mandate distribution companies (discoms) to provide new connections within seven days in metro cities, 15 days in small towns, and 30 days in rural areas. Discoms that don't meet these standards will have to pay consumers.

Union Power Minister R K Singh said consumers' rights had to be laid down in Rules since discoms were acting as monopolies and users had no alternatives.

The rules stipulate that discoms must supply power on request from the occupier of any premises, and that minimum standards of service is consumers' right. Also, discoms have to supply power 24x7, except for areas such as agriculture where continuous power is not required. Discoms are also required to put in place systems — preferably automated — for monitoring and restoring outages.

According to Power Ministry officials, since electricity is a subject on the concurrent list, the new rules will have to be followed by discoms in all states.

While the respective regulatory commissions may set standards of compliance, any violation of these standards will result in the discom paying compensation to the customer.

The amount to be paid for each type of standard violation will also be notified by the respective commissions. The compensation mechanism is also required to be automatic.

DAM IMPACT

28 villages to sink with last poll hurrah

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Tumakuru

THESE 28 villages will not face Gram Panchayat elections ever again. Over the next five years, all these hamlets from Koratagere taluk in Tumakuru district and Doddaballapur taluk in Bengaluru Rural will disappear from the face of the earth, as they will be acquired for Bhyragondlu dam, which is being built as part of the multi-crore Yettinahole irrigation project.

The emotional and economic cost is huge on these villagers, but they are putting up a brave front and facing this last election with enthusiasm. The common thread of worry among the villagers is the low compensation package being offered for their land to be acquired for the project, which is the major poll issue here. "We have been told that ₹14 lakh per acre has been fixed which is not justifiable. That is the reason we have put up educated people, like S H Ravikumar from Sunkadahalli and Sujatha M Shivaraj from Kaluvehalli, to contest the Chinnahalli GP elections. Once elected, they can fight for better compensation for us," said V Siddagangaiah, a teacher.

Local farmers holding a demonstration in Tumakuru recently | EXPRESS

Of the villages that will disappear, Sunkadahalli is special, as it has a history of over 300 years and is just 8 km away from Manne, the capital of the Ganga dynasty. But still, there is hope against hope. Nagendrappa, who is one of the candidates contesting the election, wished that the village will not go under water. He suggested that instead of building the Yettinahole project, the government should fill up 38 tanks in the district.

"It is painful to see our village, where we were born, disappearing. People here are only delaying the inevitable and have not yet planned where to relocate from here," he added ruefully. **P7**

SBI

SBI MEGA E-AUCTION IS HERE.
BIDS OPENING FOR 1000+ PROPERTIES.

Date of e-Auction | 30th December, 2020

To register, log on to any of the below-mentioned websites:

Website	Helpline
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp	033-22901004
www.sbi.auctiontiger.net	079 4000 5400 / 34 / 04
www.bankeauctions.com/sbi	0124-4302020 / 21 / 22 / 23 / 24
www.tenderwizard.com/SBIEAUCTION	18004256185

Auction of a wide variety of open plots, residential, industrial and commercial properties.
Loans available for successful bidders, subject to eligibility.

For more information:
https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/bank-e-auctions,
https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/mega-e-auction &
https://ibapi.in

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Tuesday:** 22/12/2020 • **Year:** Sarvari • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
• **Ritu:** Himantha • **Masa:** Margashira • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Ashtami 7.29 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Uttarabhadra 3.15 am • Moon in Meena Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 03:00 am to 04:30 am
• **Gulikakala:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 09:00 am to 10:30 am

WEATHER
MIN 14°C | MAX 26°C
FORECAST
Afternoon clouds

Sunrise 6.37 am
Sunset 5.59 pm
Moonrise 12.41 pm
Moonset 12.00 am

BACK TO SCHOOL?

Parents wary as new virus strain rears head, govt to wait-see

Want govt to delay board exams, prefer to let wards miss another year

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

EVEN as schools prepare for a January 1 grand opening for students of Class 6 onwards, parents are even more apprehensive with a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 emerging in the United Kingdom and threatening to spread across the world. They now prefer to take a wait-and-watch approach for at least two weeks.

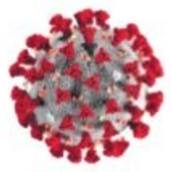
Several remained indecisive, while others were vehement about their demand to push the date of reopening further. Chandramukhi, parent of a grade 9 student of CBSE board, said, "Schools could be opened in June. Summer vacations will begin in a couple of months, what will schools teach Class 6-8 students in this short period?"

Another parent, Ganesh Poojary said, "The problem with partial reopening is that parents will always fear that their wards will miss out on classes other students have had. And once you open schools, there is no turning back." Poojary does not mind his Class 2 child missing a year or two of school.

The apprehensions of parents of older children are the same. Mohammed Shakeel, of Voice Of Parents, a collective of parents with wards in CBSE, ICSE and State boards in Karnataka, said parents are hesitant to send children of Class 6-9 to school. Meanwhile, those in Class 10 and 12 have no option but send their children and hope they are safe.

The government can, however, consider delaying the academic year, he added. For instance, ICSE hill schools, which complete exams in November, have delayed their boards, which can be extended to non-hill schools. Even better would be if board exams are realigned to international standards, and held around August, he added.

Ramesh, whose daughter is in Class 2, hopes the government promotes students to the next year – online classes have been heavy on the pocket.



We have just learned about the new variant of Covid-19 (virus), and have come out with some immediate measures. As schools will start from January 1, there is time to decide. We will hold a meeting with experts and ministers and have a discussion on it

Dr K Sudhakar, Health Minister

Online classes are being conducted at the convenience of teachers. I had written three letters to the government highlighting the problems students faced, and advised that they be promoted this year. However, the government has not paid heed

Siddaramaiah, Former CM

Can regular classes be held: HC to state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE number of Covid cases has come down, and the state government must apply its mind and examine whether schools can be opened in a phased manner, rather than close all schools across the state, the Karnataka High Court said on Monday.

IN THE HC

Making the above observation while hearing a PIL filed by AA Sanjeev Narrain, a division bench of Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice Nataraj Rangaswamy directed the state to examine whether schools can be reopened for regular classes, in particular in places where few or no cases are being reported.

In response to the court's order on December 4, the state informed the court that it had issued an order directing that Vidyagama programme be resumed from January 1, 2021, for Classes 1-10 in both government and private schools.

The decision was taken on December 15 and the order issued the next day, along with modified Standard Operating Procedure, the state said.

On the petitioner's prayer that the government could mobilise funds to procure and distribute laptops, tablets or computers to children, the Bench said that in its order on December 4, it had said the government could make an appeal to fund the Vidyagama programme through CSR.

It noted that the government was awaiting a formal response to its appeal, and said the government must submit a compliance report before the next hearing.

The Bench directed the state to focus on school dropouts, and file a status report regarding the admission of children to Classes 1-10, and admission to Class 1 after anganwadi. It also directed the state to ascertain whether children have been forced into labour, marriage, or become victims of trafficking due to closure of schools. On the midday meal scheme, the state told the court that it was providing ration to children.

Schools ready to reopen, to conduct Covid tests for teachers, students

To ensure safety, we have planned a time-table for two shifts, such that each classroom is filled to 50% capacity only. Each student will be designated one bench and will have to occupy only that seat. We will also conduct tests for teachers and staff members before reopening, and continue to do so every two weeks, besides monitoring the health of students and staff closely. Since Board exams are expected to be conducted in the next few weeks, students will be allowed to use lab facilities, and equipment will be properly sanitised after every class. Even if school reopens, we will continue online classes for students

Manjula B, Principal, Orchids The International School, BTM Layout

We are awaiting a clear directive from the government. We will collect parent consent and take measures, depending on their response. As teachers are shared, it will be difficult to implement timetables if parents opt for both online and offline modes. We need two weeks to prepare. Student safety is a primary concern as they will be interacting with other students and staff. We need to be cautious as many asymptomatic cases are being reported, making it difficult to identify and isolate. It would be desirable to conduct pre-board exams in physical space to get students accustomed to the exam centre atmosphere

Pushpa Prasad G, Principal, The Samhita Academy

STARSTRUCK

Astronomy enthusiasts peer at the celestial conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru on Monday. It's the closest the two planets have been in 497 years | SHRIRAM BN

BBMP launches campaign to make Palike budget more citizen-friendly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @BENGALURU

BRUHAT Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and NGO Janaagraha have launched the My City My Budget campaign to make the city corporation budget more citizen-friendly.

The focus of the budget this time will be to put an end to yellow spots (places of public urination) and to make the city pedestrian friendly. A budget bus and seven electric autorickshaws were flagged off on Monday as part of the campaign.

BBMP Commissioner N Manjunatha Prasad told media, Bengaluru has 14,000km of roads, but most of them lack pedestrian facilities, are congested, strewn with garbage, and so on.

"Bengaluru has a cerebral climate and people can walk long distances, but due to improper pedestrian walkways and facilities, they cannot. Due to this, even for small distances, citizens prefer to use their personalised vehicles. Thus, feedback is being obtained from people to make the city and pedestrian spaces citizen-friendly," he said.

All the feedback obtained will be included in the budget and necessary projects will also be undertaken for the safety of commuters and pedestrians. It has been observed that most pedestrian spaces either have garbage piles, transformers and other obstructions, or are are dug up to lay optical fibre cables, the Commissioner added and assured that the 2020-21 budget will address and improve all these concerns.

#MyCityMyBudget campaign launched in the city on Monday| NAGARAJA GADEKAL

The Commissioner said that there are 585 public toilets in the city against the requirement of 1,600. A campaign is also being undertaken to ensure that yellow spots are cleared and more toilets are built.

Citizens can give their feedback either through WhatsApp (7022385666), visit www.yellowspots.in or the BBMP website up till January 7, 2021.

Janaagraha launched the #MyCityMyBudget campaign as a pilot project in 2015. In 2017, a formal MoU was signed with BBMP. This year, 67,114 citizens submitted inputs.

EXPRESS READ

1,036 surgeries done for free on disadvantaged kids with facial deformities

BENGALURU: As many as 1,036 surgeries have been performed free of cost to rectify deformities affecting the face and skull in disadvantaged children in Karnataka. The surgeries were performed during the past three years through a collaboration between the Rashtriya Bal Swashtya Karyakram (RBSK) under National Health Mission (NHM), government of Karnataka, and Inga Health Foundation (IHF) to provide comprehensive and free surgeries and other treatments such as speech therapy and orthodontics. The deformities range from cleft lip and palate which is the most common, to complex skull deformities like Craniosynostosis. The MoU between National Health Mission/RBSK and Inga Health Foundation was initiated in 2017. NHM-RBSK now aim to complete 5,000 surgeries in 2021-22. **ENS**

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

22nd December : We recently experienced a powerful Mars-Pluto alignment. That means that many new babies could be profoundly passionate. I don't mean that they'll always be falling in love (they might), but that (I hope) they will always be striving for a better world, a planet of peace and justice. The trouble is, they won't be very practical - and will usually need help!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
This could be quite an emotional day, with an emphasis on domestic security as the question of the moment. Over the next forty-eight hours you will once again be asserting your independence, but there could be many mixed messages, and a high chance of misunderstandings.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Good communication is absolutely essential if you are to make a success of both personal and professional plans today. It's a fantastic day for anyone attending interviews or making important proposals, just as long as you are prepared for the unexpected!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may pay more attention to financial affairs, but should be aware that money has certain psychological and symbolic connections. It may well be that if you should be tempted to go on a spending spree, it's because something is not going so well in the rest of your life.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon is in an extremely strong position today, and that's good for you. However, it has to be said that there's a chance of confusion, muddle and mistakes, even though it may be tempered by bursts of supreme romantic inspiration. Just steer clear of awkward commitments, or any initiatives which could back-fire.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It could do you a power of good to keep yourself to yourself for a couple of days. If other people are trying to force you into a premature decision, feel free to delay and prevaricate for as long as you can. If you do make snap decisions, you could be letting other people in for trouble a little way down the line, so take sensible precautions.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
If you're taking time off for lunch, you're making the right move. It just so happens that the most unpredictable planetary alignments of the day urge you to pamper yourself, if only to avoid the perils of tension and stress. You should also leave yourself open to unexpected developments.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
It will pay to take work seriously, but it could be love, or social engagements, which are most on your mind. Although there may have to be some changes, this definitely seems to be a good period for a reunion. Rather than sitting around waiting for the phone to ring, you can take the lead and get in touch.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You may consider reviving professional plans which have been ignored or left on the back burner. In fact, this is about the best thing you can do at the moment. If you're not currently at work, you should find any way you can to gain respect in the community.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Financial plans should proceed satisfactorily, although domestic costs could increase before long. If there is to be an extravagant outburst, then you'll need to take care and keep an eye on changing prices. Actually, though, emotional risks are as likely as monetary ones!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You'll have to listen to partners very intently indeed, even though they may sometimes say completely the opposite from what they mean! Don't feel bound to commitments which have outlived their purpose. There is little to be gained by hanging on to the past at the expense of the present.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
It should be business as normal today - or so you might imagine. There is a much greater than average chance that you will be forced to consider completely new factors, especially at work. But, as soon as you think you've found the answer, the questions change!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Take your pleasures where you find them. There is much to be said for taking some time off, or, if you absolutely must work, for trying to be as inventive, innovative and creative as possible. You can't be pinned down today, but that's just so typical!

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

9			7					6
			4		6	5	1	
					5		8	
	3					1	4	
		4				3		
	2	8					7	
	9		5					
	7	6	8		3			
5					9			7

EVIL

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

1	5	8	6	4	9	3	7	2
4	6	7	8	3	2	9	1	5
2	3	9	1	7	5	8	4	6
9	2	6	7	8	4	5	3	1
7	4	1	5	9	3	6	2	8
5	8	3	2	1	6	4	9	7
3	1	5	4	2	8	7	6	9
6	7	4	9	5	1	2	8	3
8	9	2	3	6	7	1	5	4

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UHNCB

NAAER

ANSAVC

DOSTED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TWICE KNEED THEORY NUMBER
Answer: Their poker buddy tried to bluff, but they — KNEW "BETTOR"

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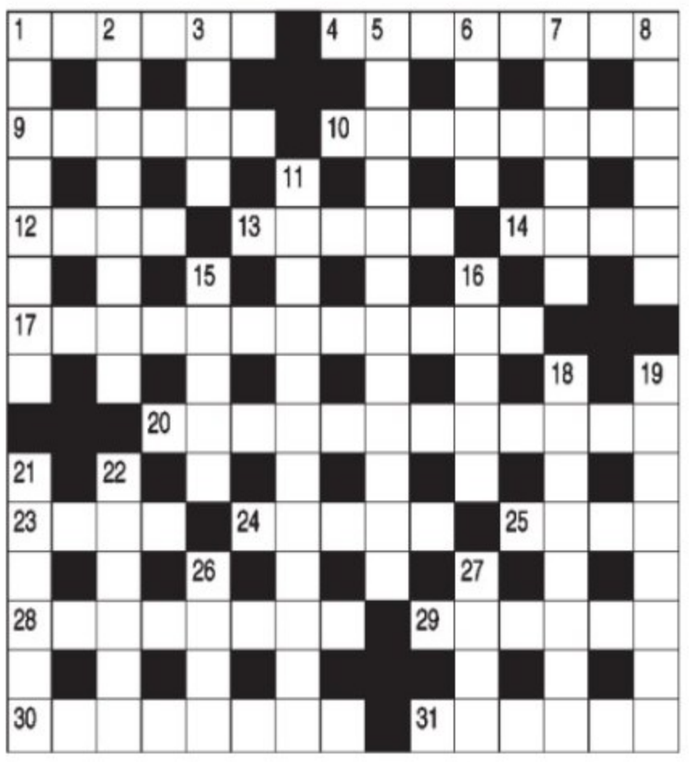
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Famous orator upsets Eric in company (6)
4 Agitated girl with unusually neat figure (8)
9 Raced back to the line with not much room to spare (6)
10 Chaperon round a stormy situation (4,4)
12 Fish to breed we hear (4)
13 Eat my cooking; it's full of interest (5)
14 A girl to avoid (4)
17 Give reason for displeasure with ground for barrier (5,7)
20 Play rehearsal? (8,4)
23 Grain of discomfort (4)
24 Change me inside and out (5)
25 Fitted tables for one's home (4)
28 Does some spelling? (8)
29 Stick a small company in this place (6)
30 G 00.00 (8)
31 Primate replaces the ushers (6)

DOWN

1 Yet it may help a company to expand (8)
2 Execute and remove on a stretcher (5,3)
3 African goes up into space (4)
5 Both weather prophets and motorists must be able to (4,3,5)
6 A wise man reforms as he grows older (4)
7 Girl with a halo (6)
8 Man enters another order (6)
11 Ideal partners for an exciting game (7,5)
15 African animal that goes round in bands (5)
16 It needs a driver to enter the wood (5)
18 Thoughtless advice to those who are over-worried (8)
19 Swapping presents - the impudence! (8)
21 Second best part in a hilarious performance (6)
22 Found and copied (6)
26 Embargo put on one in an Italian port (4)
27 Reluctant to leave the Heart of Midlothian (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Hopes, 4 Crosses, 8 Gut, 9 Bilingual, 10 Athlete, 11 Brace, 13 Drogue, 15 Oscars, 18 Oakum, 19 Narrate, 21 Delivered, 23 Chi, 24 Receded, 25 Sheaf.

Down: 1 Haggard, 2 Patchwork, 3 Sabre, 4 Caller, 5 Omnibus, 6 Sou, 7 Solve, 12 Avalanche, 14 Unmoved, 16 Sheriff, 17 Ingrid, 18 Order, 20 Rides, 22 Lac.

UK VIRUS STRAIN: NO NEED TO PANIC

Researchers in the UK say SARS-CoV-2 has mutated 17 times, this variant has high transmissibility

What do we know?
Known as lineage B.1.1.7, it was first identified in the county of Kent in the United Kingdom on September 20, and announced on December 14. It is identified by a set of 17 changes.

Is it dangerous for India?
There is no evidence regarding the new strain leading to higher mortality rates but changes seen in the spike protein may result in the virus spreading more easily. More research is needed to know if it is more dangerous.

What does this mean for the vaccine?
The extent to which the virus may evolve and become immune to the vaccine is not known. Studies on this are under way. WHO has said the new variant doesn't have any impact on the vaccines being rolled out. As more mutations occur vaccines may need to be altered.

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

WHILE India joins 20 other countries in Europe, Asia and South America to ban flights from and via UK to prevent the spread of a new strain of SARS-CoV-2 from entering the country, *The New Indian Express* looks at what this mutation means for India.

Virologists and genome researchers say viruses mutate all the time, and that while there is no need for panic, there is no room for complacency either.

"The warning from scientists and researchers at Britain about a distinct Phylognetic cluster of SARS-CoV-2 (dubbed lineage B 1.1.7) came at a point when India was waiting for approval from regulators for vaccines that are already in the market. Though the mutation is said to have caused havoc in the UK, we don't have to panic," says Dr T Jacob John, virologist and former professor at Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore.

Researchers in Britain have found that this particular strain mutated about 17 times, which is more than the number of mutations in SARS-CoV-2 that they know of, says

Dr Gaurav Sharma, a DST-INSPIRE Faculty Scientist at IBAB, Bengaluru.

"Most of the mutations do not change the virus biology (synonymous mutation), whereas some mutations can make them different by modifying the proteins and therefore their biological function, as compared to the earlier (non-synonymous) mutation. Coronavirus, like the flu and measles viruses, is an RNA virus that is prone to mutate much faster. In the UK's current scenario, researchers have claimed that this variant has high transmissibility, almost 70% more than other known strains. In this case, eight unique non-synonymous mutations are in the spike (S) protein of the virus, and two out them are worrisome as they can putatively alter the SARS-CoV-2 biology and its infection patterns," he said.

However, he said that nothing is conclusive yet, and that comparative studies of this variant's genome and biology with other variants are required to know how the virus may behave in future.

Dr V Ravi, senior professor and head of the department of neurovirology at NIMHANS, says that so far this variant has no implications for the disease itself. "Although available evidence suggests that the new strain could be more infectious, the virulence remains the same," he said.

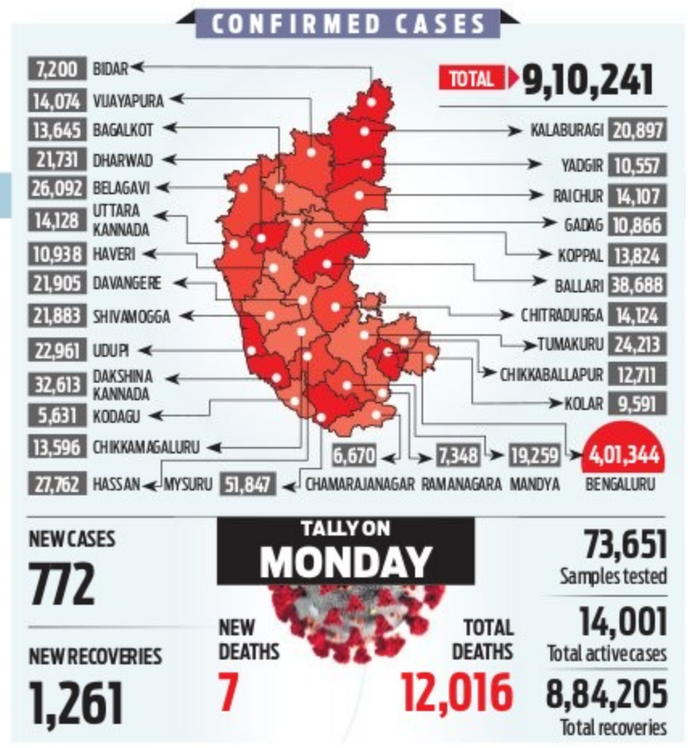
High transmission means more cases, said professor K Srinath Reddy, president of the Public Health Foundation of India. "The threat to life is not going to be altered, but many more people will get infected which means that a higher proportion will get sick and may die from Covid-19. Many may land up in hospital, burdening the health care system," he said.

A different curve?

Experts claim that the pandemic's curve in India is different. "While in other countries a tiny hill became a mountain, the curve in India is only one mountain. We actually have given the virus a free hand, and I believe that very few people here are left uninfected," said Dr Jacob of CMC Vellore. "However, we may have to buy a couple of weeks to not let the virus enter and spread fast and burden our healthcare," he added.

Impact on vaccines

Experts claim that most vaccines against Covid-19 are designed to produce neutralising antibodies that act on the spike protein, and change in the spike protein can therefore threaten vaccine effectiveness.



BIAL to follow protocols, conduct RT-PCR testing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE circular, signed by Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Jawaid Akhtar, states: "... For all flights arriving from today, RT-PCR testing must be done for all passengers originating from the UK, including those transiting in other airports outside the UK. Those who are RT-PCR positive shall be under hospital isolation and positive samples should be sent to NIMHANS, Bengaluru, for molecular testing. Passengers who are RT-PCR negative shall be under strict home quarantine for 14 days. Contact details of all such passengers should be informed to district surveillance officers for quarantine follow-up."

This will not require any special arrangements at the Kempegowda International Airport, as there are no flights scheduled to arrive here till Tuesday midnight, after which the ban on flights from the UK will be in effect until December 31.

A Bangalore International Airport Ltd spokesperson said, "Based on the circular from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, BIAL will follow all government protocol and testing required. Based on current flight schedules, there are no flights from the UK coming in to BLR Airport before the ban is enforced at 11.59 pm on December 22."

Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner K V Rajendra said there are no direct flights from the UK to Mangaluru International Airport, but chances of passengers landing in Mangaluru through connecting flights cannot be ruled out. He has sought details from airport authorities.

Dr Sudhakar said a kiosk will be set up at both airports where passengers coming from the UK will be tested on arrival. "The new variant of Covid-19 is said to be spreading fast but is not as virulent. We don't have to worry. Our health professionals keep studying the virus and the state government will keep all updated," he added.

After a lull, cases rise in Kalyana Karnataka

RAMKRISHNA BADSESHI
@Kalaburagi

AFTER a lull, there is a gradual rise in Covid cases in Kalaburagi, Bidar and Koppal districts of Kalyana Karnataka Region. There is an increase in the number of positive cases in a week from December 14 to 20.

According to data, Bidar saw 69 active cases on December 20 against 31 cases on December 10, which was also the lowest in the State. In all, 56 people tested positive in the last one week, and 28 recovered. In Kalaburagi, 173 people tested positive in the said period while 151 recovered.

In Koppal, 66 people tested positive while the number of recoveries was 23. Apart from this, a patient succumbed to the virus here. Though the number of positive cases have reduced in Raichur district (69 people were tested positive and 137 people recovered), followed by the dip in number of active cases to 122, a death was reported from Raichur in the last week. The district was casualty free in the last three weeks.

Ballari showed a slight improvement with regard to positive cases compared to recoveries. A total of 139 people tested positive, while the number of recoveries were 140 in the last week. The number of active cases in Yadgir is 48 which is the lowest in the region. In all, 43 people tested positive in the last week.

EXPRESS READ

+ve cases decline in Uttara Kannada

Karwar: Covid-19 infection has been reducing drastically in Uttara Kannada district since the second week of December. "Earlier, we used to detect positive cases ranging between 50 and 80. Now we are getting less than 15 cases," Gajanan Naik, Dean, KIMS said. ENS

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IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE 2ND ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU

C.Misc. No. 418/2020

BETWEEN: 1. Smt. Bengaluramma, W/o Siddappa, Aged about 58 years, **2. Nagaraj,** S/o Siddappa, Aged about 37 years, **3. Ramachandra,** S/o Siddappa, Aged about 35 years, All are residing at Margondanahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru....**Petitioners**

AND: The Tahasildar Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru. ...**Respondent**

PAPER PUBLICATION / PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioners have filed the petition for seeking of death certificate of the Late Siddappa from the respondent authority and the said Siddappa was died on 13.01.2011 at Gulagunjanahalli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru.

Whereas, any person interested to prosecute the aforesaid petition and file their objection in this petition, may appear **on 04.01.2021 at 11.00 AM** by either person or through pleader/advocate to answer all the issues involved in the above petition, before the Hon'ble 2nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru Rural District at Bengaluru.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 21st day of December 2020.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore.

Advocate for Petitioners :
P.R. Dhananjaya, Advocate
No. 120, 2nd A Main, Bhyraveshwara Nagara, Laggere, Bengaluru - 560 058.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners: **Mr. ANANTH IYENGAR BHAGAVAN and Ms. A. PUSHPA IYENGAR** the children of late Ananth Iyengar, residing at Pent House No.1, No.8, Park View Apartment, 2nd Main, 4th Cross, Basappa Lane, Gavipuram Extension, Bengaluru -560 019.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for this sale transaction, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Municipal No.25, PID No.50-75-25,** measuring East to West 60ft and North to South 40ft, in all measuring 2400 Sq.ft, with a house thereon, situated at **Patalamma Temple Road,** Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560 004, within the limits of BBMP Ward No.50 (V. V. Puram) and bounded as follows:

East by : Private property
West by : Patalamma Temple Street/Road
North by : Property bearing No.24
South by :Property bearing No.26

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand, Advocate
Goutam Associates
No. 60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560 004.

SRIMATHA MAHILA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA
No.403, 803, 8ht Main Road, 10th Cross, Shastrinagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 028. Ph: 080 26762583 / 26762584

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF CHAPTER III OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCILA ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002.

Borrower Name and Address: **1) Smt. Subhashini Mahesh,** aged about 30 years, W/o Sri Maheshwara Rao A. **& 2) Sri Maheshwara Rao.A,** aged about 36 years, S/o Sri Anantha Kondayya, both are R/at No.134, 2nd Floor, Chaya Nilaya, 6th Main, 6th Cross, Sanjayanagar, Bangalore-560 094.

We **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha., Shastrinagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore,** had at yout request granted you No.1 to No.2 various Credit facilities by way of financial assistance on the terms and conditions contained in the agreement/s and document/s duly executed in favor of the Bank. The relevant particulars of the said credit facilities and the amount outstanding repayable by you are stated in **Annexure-I.**

As security for the said financial assistance to you No.1 to No.2 have created security interest in favor of **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha., Shastrinagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore,** interalia, by way of Hypothecation of Movable Properties / Mortgage of immovable propertied by executing necessary security Documents / agreements. The particulars of the secured assets are specifically mentioned in **Annexure-II.**

In terms of the agreements and documents entered into by you all with **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.,** you were required to repay the principal amounts of the financial assistance in accordance with repayment as contained in the said agreements / Documents and also to pay interest thereon at the rates and in the manner as stated in the said agreements and Documents. The operation and conduct of the accounts in respect of the above said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular and your debt has since been classified by **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.,** as a Non performing Asset on 10-12-2020 consequent to the default committed by you No.1 to No.2 in repayment of principal debt and interest thereon.

Accordingly in exercise of the powers conferred in terms of Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act) **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.,** declares that the aggregate amount of **Rs. 34,42,621/- (Thirty Four Lakh Fourty Two Thousand Six Hundred & twenty One Only) as on 10-12-2020** is immediately due and payable along with future interest.

In the premises we the **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.,** hereby call upon you all jointly & severally to pay to **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.,** within a period of **60 days** from the date of receipt of this notice the aggregate sum of **Rs. Rs. 34,42,621/- (Thirty Four Lakh Fourty Two Thousand Six Hundred & twenty One Only)as on 10-12-2020** together with further interest thereon with effect from **11-12-2020** at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, other monies until payment or realization.

In case you fail to make the payment as aforesaid, **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.,** shall be constrained to take recourse in terms of the provisions of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets, entirely at your risk as to costs and consequences thereof. The powers available to **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.,**under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing secured asset (ii) take over the management of the secured asset including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured asset and any transfer of secured asset by **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.,** shall vest in the all rights or in relation to the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you.

In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in this notice without prior consent of **Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.,**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

This notice is issued in terms of Section 13(2) of the said Act.

The charges expenses incurred for taking the said action shall be met out of the sale proceeds and if the sale proceeds are found insufficient to satisfy the entire amount due to the Bank, for the balance amount, appropriate legal action as provided in Act will do taken against you, holding all of you jointly and severally liable to all costs and consequences thereof.

Please note that the above notice is issued without prejudice to such rights of the secured creditor to initiate any other legal proceedings/auction as deemed fit and necessary under the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

The demand notice sent through RPAD on 14-12-2020 to the borrower and Guarantor has returned undelivered with a shara "addressee left" / "Unclaimed" "No Information about present address" on 19-12-2020 hence the present demand notice has been advertised through newspaper.

ANNEXURE - I

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Sanction Amount (Rs.)	Amount Outstanding as on 10-12-2020 repayable by you
1.	IPL-1013000000495 ODS- 101100000101	22,00,000/- 7,50,000/- Total: 29,50,000/-	Rs. 34,42,621/- (together with further interest thereon with effect from 11-12-2020 at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, other monies untill payment or realization.

ANNEXURE - II SCHEDULE (DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTIRE PROPERTY)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No. Plot/Site No.63, Yelahanka CMC Serial No.62/1 and Sy.No. 62/2, New BBMP Katha No.785, situated at Agrahara Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West : 40 Feet and North to South : 30 Feet, totally 1200 Sqft. with all rights and appurtenances whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows: East by - Site No.28 & 29, West by - Road, North by - Site No.62 and South by : Site No.64.

Date : 21-12-2020
Place : BANGALORE

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Srimatha Mahila Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

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Date : 22-12-2020, Tuesday at 4-30 p.m.

All are cordially invited

Venue : MAHAVEER BHAVAN Railway Station Road, Tumkur.

"Join & Grow with Us"

Traders from across Karnataka on Monday, representing the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), staged a protest against the state government, demanding an uniform cess system inside or outside the market fees

FM: Insolvency code suspension can be extended to March 31

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Union government is planning a three-month extension for the suspension of fresh insolvency proceedings, a move that will bring much relief to corporate borrowers impacted by the pandemic-influenced economic slowdown. This was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday, during her virtual address to members of the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC).

The finance minister, who also holds the corporate affairs portfolio, said the suspension of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) could be extended from December 25 up to March 31, 2021. ''So the entire year (from March 25, 2020 to March 31, 2021) the IBC is suspended, (and) rightfully so because every industry has gone through major stress because of the pandemic. And nobody could be drawn towards insolvency process which may have occurred during the pandemic,'' she said.

The Centre had raised the minimum threshold to initiate solvency proceedings from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore to insulate micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from bankruptcy on defaulting on loans.

Sections 7, 9 and 10 of the IBC, which pertain to corporate insolvency resolution process by a financial creditor, operational creditor and corporate debtor, respectively, had been suspended to provide relief.

The ordinance to suspend fresh insolvency proceedings came into effect in March, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the nationwide lockdown through an ordinance, and Parliament in September cleared the move to replace the ordinance, amending IBC with a bill.

'WE STAND BY OUR DECISION TO HOLD GIM THIS YEAR'

CM B S Yediyurappa says that unrest at Wistron and Kirloskar have not dented Karnataka's image

The government has always supported and ensured safety of industries. I have directed officials to take necessary steps in this regard

— B S Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

The Karnataka government, which has been focusing on new industrial policies to attract and retain industries in the State and provide employment to locals, was planning to hold the Global Investors' Meet this year, but had to put it on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The government has also constituted a Special Investment Promotion Task Force to woo multinational companies.

Under fire from former Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah and HD Kumaraswamy and other leaders on the labour unrest at Wistron's iPhone manufacturing facility in Kolar district, besides Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd in Bidadi, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa dismissed the Wistron violence as a stray incident which would not mar Karnataka's brand image. In an interview, he told **Ashwini M Sripad** that he is confident of holding GIM next year, once the Covid-19 situation improves. Excerpts:

What steps are being taken to avoid such instances in future?
The recent labour unrest at Toyota Kirloskar in Bidadi and Wistron in Kolar is very unfortunate, but they are one-off incidents. We have been in constant touch with both the companies and the Centre, and are taking steps to ensure that investor sentiment is not affected.

Has the government reached out to Wistron officials?
The district administration and principal secretary have extended all support and help to maintain industrial peace.

Will the government conduct a meeting with other companies to assure them?
By and large, Karnataka is a peaceful state known for its stable policies, environment, ease of doing business and good labour relations. The government has always supported and ensured safety of industries. I have directed officials to take necessary steps in this regard.

Do you think this incident will affect Brand Karnataka?
Definitely not. This is a stray incident which will be adequately addressed.

Will the government hold the Global Investors' Meet in 2020-21?
Yes, we stand by our decision to hold the Global Investors' Meet in 2020-21, and an appropriate decision will be taken depending on the industrial scenario post the Covid situation.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa launches the Acknowledgement Based Clearance for industries on Monday | EXPRESS

Investors will now not need multiple clearances to set up industries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday launched the Acknowledgement Based Clearance for industries under the Karnataka Industries (Facilitation) Act, which will allow industries to set up facilities without obtaining clearances from multiple departments.

With the launch of the facility, all that an industry - whether large, medium, or small - in Karnataka will need is an acknowledgement certificate by a nodal agency after obtaining approvals from investment committees to set up its facilities until the beginning of commercial operations.

Industries can now go ahead with land development, civil works, construction and installation of machinery among others with just the approval of the State High-Level Clearance Committee, State-Level Single Window Clearance Committee, or the District-Level Single Window Clearance Committee. And all this without having to bother about clearances from multiple government agencies, including mandatory clearances under the pollution control board, forest rules, fire force act, land reforms act, trade licence, building plan approval, etc.

Launching the facility, Yediyurappa said that the state has taken various historic steps to improve the business climate for various stakeholders, and the amendment to Facilitation Act is a milestone that will enable investors to establish businesses without any clearances or approvals from various departments for the first three years.

"Karnataka is a forerunner state when it comes to providing an investor-friendly ecosystem for the business community and various stakeholders. We are committed to the development of the state-of-the-art business ecosystem in the state, and we have been taking several measures to ensure the state's commitment to providing ease of doing business," the CM said.

We are committed to the development of the state-of-the-art business ecosystem, and we have been taking several measures to ensure the state's commitment to providing ease of doing Business

B S Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

High security in place across state for GP polls

Bengaluru: The state Police Department has made elaborate security arrangements for the Gram Panchayat elections to be held on Tuesday and Sunday. As many as 80,000 personnel, including 10,969 policemen and senior officers and 9,083 home guards, will be deployed at polling booths in all districts. In all, 1,746 mobile teams, consisting of ASIs and PSIs, will be on patrol on polling day. Local DAR personnel and 111 platoons of KSRP will also maintain security, according to a press release. Commissioners of police and superintendents of police of the respective districts have been instructed to supervise the law and order situation. Covid-19 guidelines issued by the Centre and directions by the High Court will be complied. ENS

Election personnel make their way to a polling station at Nelamangala in Bengaluru on Monday| SHRIRAM BN

HC restrains withdrawal of cases against MLAs, MPs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Monday restrained the BJP-led government from en masse withdrawal of criminal cases against its elected representatives, including MLAs, MPs and ministers, such as JC Madhu Swamy, BC Patil, Anand Singh, Renukacharya, MP Pratap Simha, Independent MP Sumalatha Ambareesh and others.

A division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty passed the interim order restraining the State government from withdrawing cases against the accused, based on an order passed on August 31, 2020.

The Bench said the government advocate had sought time to comply with court directions.

"A case is made out for interim relief by the petitioner. Accordingly, we direct that no steps should be taken on the basis of the order dated August 31, 2020," the Bench said, while giving the government one more opportunity to comply with the order.

The Bench was hearing the public interest litigation filed by People's Union For Civil Liberties-Karnataka (PUCL-K) questioning the decision taken by the government at the cabinet meeting to withdraw 61 cases. Petitioner's counsel Clifton Rozario submitted that the government had resolved to grant permission for withdrawal of prosecution, and the Director, Department of Prosecution and Government Litigation, was suggested to file necessary applications before the concerned courts where the cases are pending.

"The criminal cases ought not to be withdrawn. Importantly, a number of cases pertain to destruction of public property and communal crimes," he argued.

On the last date of hearing, the Bench noted that the Apex Court had held that even if the government instructs the public prosecutor to withdraw from prosecution of a case, the latter, after applying his mind to the facts of the case, may either agree with the instructions and file a petition before court stating grounds of withdrawal, or disagree, having found a good case and refuse to file the withdrawal petition. The Apex Court had further observed that the public prosecutor cannot act like a post box or on the dictates of the state government, and has to act objectively as he is also an officer of the Court.

The Bench had also stated that action under Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, can be taken only with permission of the court. No court is bound by such a decision to withdraw from prosecution.

Even if an application is made under Section 321 of CrPC, courts are duty-bound to assess whether a prima facie case is made out or not, and the court has power to reject the prayer, it said.

While passing this order, the Bench on December 1, 2020, had directed the government to forward copies of the order to public prosecutors to whom instructions were given to withdraw from prosecution in 61 cases. However, this order was not complied with, so the Bench passed the interim order. Further hearing will be held on January 29, 2021.

Kodavas seek public apology from Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madikeri

KODAVA women, with support from various presidents of Kodava Samajas across the district, held a protest in Madikeri condemning former CM and Congress leader Siddaramaiah's statement that Kodavas were beef eaters.

Starting off the protest with a Kodava song, the protesters spoke on how cows and cattle are holy to the Kodava clan. "The calmness of Kodavas is being mistaken for weakness. We must unite and show that no one can break us. Siddaramaiah speaks without thinking. Since the British period, cow slaughter has been banned in the district as Kodavas are worshippers of the cow. A memorandum to the PM condemning Siddaramaiah's statement will be forwarded through DC today," said Bose Devaiah, president of Ammathi Kodava Samaj. The president of Western Ghats Conservation Task Force, Ravi Kushalappa has filed a complaint against Siddaramaiah at Madikeri Rural Police station.

Meanwhile, the presidents of various Kodava Samajas said that Kodagu must shut its doors to Siddaramaiah and the protesters demanded a public apology. "Kodava women have great self-respect and we condemn Siddaramaiah's comment," said Kanthi Satish, who led the women protesters.

Real pol career will begin in '23: HDK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FORMER Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy has said that his real political career will begin in 2023. "All these years what I did was temporary. My real journey will begin in 2023 by bringing the JDS government to power without any support," he said Hitting out at Congress leader Siddaramaiah, Kumaraswamy said the former chief minister is at his mercy and not the other way round.

Reacting to Siddaramaiah's statement on the JDS merging with the BJP, Kumaraswamy told reporters on Monday that there was no question of the former merging with any other party. "Congress leaders, especially the one who went from the JDS, is dreaming to kill the party which will not happen. He (Siddaramiah) is dreaming of finishing the JDS. The recent bypolls are not people's verdict. We from the JDS will start many initiatives post Sankranthi in 2021. We will come back to power independently. My real political career will begin then," he said.

He also said that if according to Siddaramiah the JDS was the B party of the BJP, what compelled him or his party to form the government in the state by joining hands with the JDS. "Neither I nor my father is chasing power. We had clearly told them that let the CM be from the Congress, but Congress leaders, including Siddaramiah, did not accept this. Now they are blaming us," he said.

Kumaraswamy said he was responsible for making Siddaramiah Deputy CM in 2004. "Siddaramiah is at my mercy. I have spent my hard earned money on Siddaramiah and his political career. It is not the other way round. He has forgotten. When I became CM in 2006, he did not have a role, it was due to my strategy and hardwork," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Not happy with JDS, BJP bonhomie: Prasad

Mysuru: BJP MP V Srinivasa Prasad has expressed displeasure over his party reviving its bonhomie with the JDS to take control of DCC banks and unseat the Chairman of the Legislative Council. He said the JDS has lost ground in its own backyard and is worried about its identity. He said that the alliance at this juncture was inevitable for the JDS' survival as party supremo H D Deve Gowda himself had lost the election in Tumakuru. He said Gowda could have decided on the alliance as they had just come out of a partnership with the Congress. ENS

Will take 'political sanyas', says Revanna

Hassan: Former minister and JDS leader H D Revanna on Monday said that he will take "political sanyas" if his party supports the BJP if it loses majority after the bypolls. He criticised BJP state general secretary Aravind Limbavali for airing baseless statements that several JDS MLAs want to join the saffron party. "The BJP top brass should take action against Limbavali for making derogatory remarks against the JDS," he said, adding that BJP and Congress leaders have hatched a conspiracy to finish off JDS politically. Revanna said the party will not stop anyone from quitting. ENS

BORDERLINE POLITICS

Bifurcating Ballari could open gates to AP netas

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

THERE is a thinking that carving up Ballari district into two smaller ones could streamline administration, and its advocates put forward several benefits. Then there is a section of political experts which thinks otherwise, saying this could pave the way for parties from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh to enter Ballari politics, and change the political spectrum.

Besides having an adverse effect on political aspirants here, it could also deepen the linguistic divide in this largely Telugu-speaking belt.

A protest staged against bifurcation of Ballari district held recently | EXPRESS

Sirigeri Pannaraj, senior advocate from Ballari, said that bifurcation will surely have its impact on the politics of the district.

"As per the Constitution, any person can contest from anywhere in India. Bifurcation may bring in parties from Andhra Pradesh who will field their own candidates. Years ago, politicians from Andhra Pradesh wanted Ballari to be included in their state, but such demands were ignored," he said.

"Ballari district is part of Rayalaseema, and parties from Andhra Pradesh have always had an eye on the Telugu-speaking population here. It will not be surprising if candidates from YSR Congress and Telugu Desam Party contest elections from Ballari in the near future," said one political expert.

Drawing a parallel to Belagavi district, he said that parties try to encash votes on border and language issues. "A similar situation could prevail in Ballari, post bifurcation. The situation was similar a few decades ago when Kannada was hardly spoken in several parts of Ballari."

Terror fugitive behind M'luru graffiti: Cops

Matheen Ahmed Taahaa, two arrested suspects, all of whom from Theerthahalli, knew each other

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE alleged fugitive terrorist, Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taahaa from Theerthahallli in Shivamogga, is reportedly behind the pro-terror graffiti in Mangaluru, said highly-placed sources. In May, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had announced a bounty of Rs 3 lakh cash reward on credible information leading to the arrest of Matheen, who is a wanted accused in Al-Hind ISIS Bengaluru module case, which is reportedly behind the murder of a Hindu leader in Tamil Nadu.

The Mangaluru police on December 6 arrested an engineering student in the City, Mazz Muneer Ahmed (21), and a commerce graduate, Mohammed Shariq (22), who is working as a salesman at his father's shop in Mangaluru, in the pro-terror graffiti case.

Ahmed and Shariq are also from Theerthahalli and are known to each other. Sources said, "Shariq and Maaz were reportedly in touch with Matheen. The latter had allegedly asked them to write pro-terror graffiti on the walls in public places to create fear and panic among people," they said. The pro-graffiti were in support of terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Taliban.

Matheen has reportedly fled the country and is in touch with some of his associates in India, said sources. They added that he wanted to create trouble in Mangaluru close to the first anniversary of December 19 anti Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 and National Register of Citizens (NRC) violent protest in which Abdul Jaleel and Nausheen Kudroli lost their lives in police firing.

"Matheen is an accomplice in the case and a friend of the accused in the Bengaluru ISIS module case, Saleem and Zaid. He had contacted the main accused Mehboob Pasha of 'Al-Hind Trust,' Bengaluru and was also associated with his online foreign handler," the central counter-terror agency had added.

The police have intensified the hunt for more leads on Matheen. His house is on Fish Market Road, Soppu Gudde, Theerthahalli Rural, Shivamogga.

CRIME PATROL

CCB nabs absconding peddler in Sandalwood drugs case

BENGALURU: CCB sleuths probing the Sandalwood drug racket, on Sunday arrested another peddler Vinay Kumar, who was absconding. Kumar was in touch with the kingpin and his name was mentioned in the FIR. He allegedly procured drugs from neighbouring states. An officer said Kumar (40) runs a business in Ballari. He hid at a friend's house in Bengaluru soon after the case was registered in Cottonpet in September. Police gathered information that Kumar was visiting his relative's house and nabbed him. He was in contact with prime accused Ravishankar and Viren Khanna. They were selling drugs to film actors and celebrities.

TV show organisers booked for violating Covid norms

BENGALURU: Byatarayanapura police on Monday booked the organisers of singing show, 'SaReGaMaPa', for allegedly flouting Covid norms on Saturday. A report has been sent to the court for initiating action under the NDMA, police said. Permission was granted to host 100 people, but there were over 150 at the time, and the show's finale was held at Nandi Links ground in Pantarapalya. There was apparently no ventilation in the sheds for the participants. Police conducted spot checks and recorded the alleged violation on video to present it in court.

NIA arrests 17 SDPI members for conspiracy in DJ Halli riots case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested 17 Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI)/Popular Front of India (PFI) leaders and activists in the DJ Halli and KG Halli arson case (RC-35/2020/NIA/DLI). SDPI is the political wing of the PFI.

"The investigation so far has revealed that SDPI leaders Mohammed Sharieff, president, Bengaluru district, and president, KG Halli ward, Imran Ahmed, along with senior SDPI leaders Rubah Waqas, Shabbar Khan and Shaikh Ajmal had conducted meetings at Thanisandra and KG Halli wards on the evening of August 11, in which they conspired, mobilised and thereafter, led the crowd to KG Halli police station and attacked police personnel, caused huge damage to public and police vehicles," said the NIA. "The SDPI President, Nagwara ward, Abbas had also mobilised a large crowd at the KG Halli police station through his associates Azil Pasha, Irfan Khan and Akbar Khan," the Central counter terror agency added.

The arson of August 11 | EXPRESS

"The NIA investigation has also revealed that the accused -- Saddam, Sayed Sohel and Kaleemulla alias Shahrukh Khan -- misused social media platforms Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to spread terror among people. The accused participated and mobilised people from distant places to gather at KG Halli police station for the purpose of creating violence and damaging public and private properties," the NIA stated.

The agency on November 18 had conducted searches at 43 locations in Bengaluru, including at the four offices of SDPI in the rioting case, in which three people lost their lives in police firing.

So far, 187 accused were arrested in the August 11 arson in which thousands of people had damaged and burnt down DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations, public and private property and torched the house of Congress MLA from Pulakeshinagar, Akhand Srinivasamurthy, after his nephew Naveen allegedly posted a sacrilegious post on a social media platform.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No.TBM-SG-CN-2020-21-07-OT dated 17.12.2020

Item No.1, Name of the work : Improvement work of existing Electronic interlocking arrangements at Tindivanam and Mailam stations on Chennai division in connection with Chengalpattu - Villupuram doubling work.
Cash Value in Rupees : 1,83,04,241/-
Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees) : 2,41,500/-
Last Date and Time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site : 09.01.2021 upto 11.00 hrs.
Cost of Tender Document (Rs.) : Nil.
Period of Completion in month(s) : Three

Complete details & tender document will be available at http://www.ireps.gov.in
Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.
The supply/work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.

Dy. CHIEF SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEER/ CONSTRUCTION/S.Rly., TAMBARAM, CHENNAI - 600 045.
On behalf of the President of India.
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IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT HOSKOTE
C. Mis.No.279/2020

Between, 1). Sri.Muniyappa S/o.Late Narayanappa, Aged about 62 years, 2). Sri.Narasimhappa S/o. Late Narayanappa Aged about 55 Years, 3). Sri.Gangappa S/o.Late Narayanappa, Aged about 62 Years, Anupahalli Village, Sulibelle Hobali, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district ...Petitioners

And: The Thasildar Hoskote Taluk. Hoskote, Bangalore Rural District ....Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above petitioners have filed the petition for seeking a direction to the respondent to register the date of death of one Sri. Narayanappa S/o. Gangappa who died on 20-03-1990 at Anupahalli Village, Sulibele Hobali, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. Who is the father of the Petitioners and his death is to be register in birth and death register. Wherefore, any interested parties are requested to appear before the above court in person or through pleader to claiming any right or have any claim or interest on 29/01/2021 at 11 am before the Hon'ble Court before Passing any order, otherwise you may be placed exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble court this day of 10th December 2020
By order of the court
Sheristedar, Civil Judge & J.M.F.C Hoskote.

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WINSTON CHURCHILL

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA- 769012
No. 13879 Date: 21.12.2020

NOTICE INVITING FOR TENDER

The Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation invites tender for Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of GPS & GPRS based Automatic Vehicle Tracking, System in Garbage Lifting & other Vehicles under Rourkela Municipal Corporation from reputed and experienced agency having similar experience.

The Bid is to be submitted in closed covers and addressed to the Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Uditnagar, Rourkela, Dist.- Sundargarh (Odisha), 769012 on or before 14:00 hrs on 06.01.2021 through Speed Post/ Registered Post/Courier or By Hand.

The tender document can download from the website of the Rourkela Municipal Corporation www.rmc.nic.in from 22.12.2020 onwards. The bid Cost for an amount of Rs. 6720/- (Rupees Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty only) including GST shall have to be deposited by way of Demand Draft drawn on any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank in favour of Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation payable at Rourkela along with the Bid. Other details can be seen in the tender document.

Sd/- COMMISSIONER
Rourkela Municipal Corporation

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BENGALURU
Jeevan Mangal Building, 2nd Floor, No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru -560025

SALE PROCLAMATION FORM NO-22

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 38 AND 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993
TRC No. 232/2018 in (TA No.1952/2017)
CANARA BANK V/S SMT ANITHA & Others

To:CD No. 1: Smt. Anitha, D/o. Thomas J. No. 57, 5th Cross, 1st Main Road, Opp to JB Stores, Doorwaninagar Post, Udayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 016. CD No. 2: Sri Thomas J, D. No. 342, East 4th Lane, ITI Colony, Doorwani Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560 016. CD No. 3: Sri Amala Shantharaj, 148/1, Bannerghatta Road, Belakanahalli Village, Bengaluru . ....Certificate Debtors
The under mentioned property will be sold by 'online e-Auction' through website https://www.bankeauctionwizard.com on 30.01.2021 for recovery of an amount of Rs.70,09,951/- (Rupees Seventy Lakhs Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty One only) including costs and interest from 16.10.2020 and costs till realisation. The future interest is chargeable at the same rate till realization of debt as per Recovery Certificate in O. A. No. 1952/2017

Date and Time of e-Auction	30.01.2021 between 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 Noon.
Reserve Price	Rs.52,30,000/-(Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.5,23,000/-(Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Only)
Last date for Bid Submission	28.01.2021 before 4.00 P.M
Bid Increment	Rs.50,000/-(Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

SCHEDULE : Owner of the property is Mr. J. Thomas, S/o. Joseph (CD 2) : All that piece and parcel of property bearing No. 57, Khata No. 764/A, measuring East to West 27.00 feet North to South 40.00 Feet Totally measuring 1080 sqft. Together with a residential house constructed on the Ground Floor with RCC roof having built up area of 500 sqft. Location : B. Narayanapura Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk (Formerly Bangalore South Taluk) East by : Site No. 58, West by : Site No. 56, North by: Road, South by: Site No. 61 and 62.
Encumbrance : Sri Niranjana D E - name is reflecting.

For Terms and condition of sale visit website: https://www.bankeauctionwizard.com of M/s. Antares Systems Ltd., Bangalore For further details Contact Mr. V. Manohar, Mobile : 9686196756 e-mail id:v.manohar@antaressystems.com. Contact details of Officer of Bank: Mr. R. G. Prasad Chief Manager, Canara Bank, Madiwala Branch, Bengaluru. Mobile No. 9483521074, e-mail : cb1074@canarabank.com
Given under my hand and seal on this 04th day of December 2020.
Sd/- (K. Ramesh)
Recovery Officer, DRT-II

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, N. RADHA, W/o Viswanath, D/o L Narayana Reddy, R/at No.12/25, 3rd Cross, Laljinagar Adugodi, Bangalore. have lost original sale deed, while going to take photo copy near Lakkasandra on 01.12.2020 the original Registered Sale Deed Property No.3934/1971-72, Book-1, Volume 167, pages 96-97, registered on 23.03.1972. Police complaint is filed in this regard vide lost report No.166220/2020, Finders may return the same to the address give above or call :9844201062.

DOCUMENT LOST
I, Girijesh B J, S/o Jayarama Reddy B H R/a. No. 301, CC Swesthik A Block, 7th Cross, R K Colony, J P Nagar, 2nd Phase, Bangalore. Have lost original Deed Declaration, Register No. BNG (U) BYP4 128/2018-19 1-6 Page in the name of Smt Ramakka W/o Munirathnam Reddy. While transit.
Finders please contact : 7760839355

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client, SRI. V. JAYARAM, S/o Late P. Venkatesh Achari, residing at 1st Main, 1st Cross, Jaibheemanagara, Old Madivala, BANGALORE – 560 068, is going to create an equitable mortgage by way of deposit of title deeds of his immovable property bearing Site No.12 and 13 Katha No.1770, Assessment No.91/P36, situated at Rayasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq. feet, and bounded on East by: Site No. 5 and 4, West by: 20 feet Road, North by: Site No.11 and South by: Site No.14 in favour of REPCO HOME FINANCE LTD., Hoodi Branch, Bangalore, as security for the loan to be availed by him. If any person/s has/ have any claim, objection, rights, interest in the aforesaid property, may be sent to my following address within 7 days from today.
Sd/-
B. SUBRAYA KHARVI, ADVOCATE,
No. 231, 11th Main, 37th Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 041.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Transport), Room No. 104, Council Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002
No.: EE(T)/TND/05/2020-21 Date: 21.12.2020

E-AUCTION SALE NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal)
The Executive Engineer (Transport), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), invites sale of Scarp vehicles, parked at the aforesaid address, as shown in the Annexure-1 will be conducted by way of E-Auction sale on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP. The highest rates received in the E-auction will be considered for acceptance.

ANNEXURE-1
Details of Used / Scrap Vehicles

Sl. No.	Vehicle Reg. No.	Make	Vehicle Parked at
Second Call			
1	KA 01 8850	Honda - HGV	City Shed, J.C. Road, Bengaluru
2	KA01 A 2081		Old Asphalt plant, Koramangala, Bengaluru
3	KA01 A 1223		
4	KA01 A 1220		
Third Call			
5	KA01 M 3412	LMV Car	City Shed, J.C. Road, Bengaluru
6	KA 01 M 3414		
7	KA 02 N 4635	Ambassador	
8	KA 01 Z 2655		
9	KA 01 Z 7140		
10	KA 01 M 3398	Maruthi Omni	
11	KA01 M 3415	LMV Car	BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru
12	KA01 M 3423		
13	KA01 M 3411		Old Asphalt plant, Koramangala, Bengaluru

E-Auction Schedule: (1) Availability of tender document: 22.12.2020 onwards. (2) Inspection of Scrap vehicles: Upto 28.12.2020 (during Office Hours). (3) Last date for participation for e-auction: 28.12.2020 upto 05:00 p.m. (4) Online evaluation of E-auction: 29.12.2020. (5) Live auction bidding date & time: 31.12.2020 (Starting at 10:30 a.m.). Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Transport), BBMP

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CEN 01/2019
RECRUITMENT OF VARIOUS NTPC GRADUATE AND UNDER GRADUATE POSTS

Indicative Notice for 1st Stage Computer Based Test (CBT-1)

The 1st Stage CBT will be held in multiple phases in order to ensure adherence to all the COVID-19 guidelines for the large number of eligible candidates. Accordingly the first phase of the Exam is scheduled to be held from 28.12.2020 to 13.01.2021 in various cities all over the country. The remaining eligible candidates will be scheduled in subsequent phases and will be intimated accordingly. The exam will be held by observing all guidelines related to COVID-19.

Links for Exam City, Date & Shift intimation, Forgotten Registration Number, Help Desk and Mock test are made available on official websites of all RRBs. E-call letter can be downloaded 04 days prior to exam date mentioned in Exam City and date intimation link

For further details and updates, the candidates are advised to visit only official websites of Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) from time to time.

Chairpersons
Railway Recruitment Boards
Date: 22.12.2020

ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Under the Department of Energy
Government of Odisha
(ISO 9001:2008 / ISO 14001:2004)
S/59, MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
Website: www.oredaorissa.com, E-mail: ceoreda@oredaorissa.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Tender call notice No. 5836 / Dated 18.12.2020 /

ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY invites sealed e-tender is two part bidding system from manufacture for supply, installation, commissioning including warranty and comprehensive maintenance contract for a period of five years of Solar powered water heating systems in Odisha Details are given below.

1.	Date of publication of RFP on E-procurement website and OREOA website	21-12-2020
2.	Due date and time for receipt of pre-bid quarries on the RFP	28-12-2020 up to 5.00 P.M
3.	Date and time for the pre bid meeting through online mode only. Meeting invite link on Google hangout platform (link for pre-bid meeting = meet.google.com/nfd.bnto-ift)	31-12-2020 at 11.30 A.M.
4.	Due date of hosting of final bid documents	04-01-2021
5.	Due date and time for submission of online copies of Technical Bid and price bid	15-01-2021 up to 5.00 P.M.
6.	Due date and time for submission of hard copies of Technical Bid for Select Bid Forms only	19-01-2021 up to 1.00 P.M.
7.	Due date and time for the opening of Technical Bid for both online copies and hard copies, except price bid.	19-01-2021 at 3.00 P.M.
8.	Due date and time for the opening of online price bid applicable only for the bidders whose Technical bids shall be responsive	To be intimated later on

Interested prospective bidder may visit OREDA web site www.oredaorissa.com and www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA for details relating bidding process and all other terms and conditions. The bidder can view the tender documents from www.oredaorissa.com website on free of cost.

Sd/- 18-12-2020
Chief Executive

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TUESDAY | DECEMBER 22

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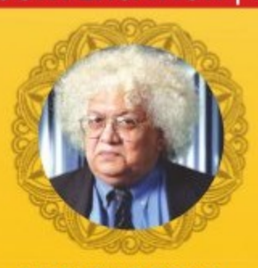
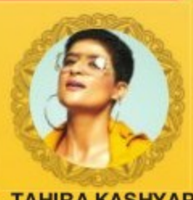

MEGHNAD DESAI
Economist, politician and author of Rebellious Lord
The Art of Writing a Memoir
with Kaveree Bamzai & Daniel Thimmayya

FIRESIDE CHAT | 8 PM

SHAHEEN BHATT
Author of I've Never Been (Un)Happier

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Author of The 12 Commandments of Being a Woman
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IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
CRL. MISC. No. 91/2020

BETWEEN: SMT. JAYAMMA AND OTHERS ...**Petitioners**

AND: THE TAHASILDAR, Bangalore North (Addl.) Taluk, Yalahanka, Bangalore ...**Respondent**

Address of deceased: Sri. Chikkabachappa S/o Kenchappa, R/at Meesaganahalli Village, B.K. Halli Post, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North (Addl.) Taluk-562149.

Notice Under Order 5 Rule 20 of C.P.C. on Application Under Order XXII Rule 4 of C P C

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have filed a Criminal Misc. Petition No. 91/2020 as against the respondent for seeking direction for issuance of death certificate of her father **Sri. Chikkabachappa S/o Kenchappa who died on 05.02.1984** leaving behind her and other petitioners in the above case. Hence I am taking public notice as against the above said facts. Therefore, take notice that you are required to appear before this Hon'ble court in person or through counsel on **06.01.2021 at 11.00 a.m.** in Principal Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli without fail, failing which the above case will be decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 18.12.2020.

By Order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanhalli.

Advocate for Petitioners : **MOHAN KUMAR .M** Meesaganahalli, Jala Hobli, B.K. Halli Post, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-562149.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE I ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT BANGALORE
C. Mis. No. 822 / 2019

Between: 1. SRI LAKSHMAN, S/o Late Chikka Ramaiah, aged about 56 yrs, **2. SRI DEVARAJ** S/o Late Chikka Ramaiah, aged about 48 yrs, **3. SRI R. RAJA** S/o Late Chikka Ramaiah, aged about 46 yrs, All the petitioners R/at Avalahalli Village, Virgonagar Post, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore-560049. ... **Petitioners**

And: The Registrar of Births and Death, Thasildhar, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560016. ... **Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named petitioner No. 1 to No. 3 have made petition to this honorable court under section 1393) of Birth and Death Registration Act, for the grant of Death Certificate in favour of the petitioners in respect of death of Deceased who is the father of petitioners named as **Chikkaramaiah S/o Muniverappa** who died on **20/11/1996** at Avalahalli Village, Virgonagar Post, Bidarahalli hobli, Bangalore east Taluk, Bangalore-560049.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on dated **05-01-2021** at about 11.00 AM informed to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declare as Ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 19-12-2020.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore.

Advocate for Petitioners: **BABU .D.R** #113, Avalahalli Village, Virgonagar Post, Bangalore-560049.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, **Sri. YOGESHU,** S/o Umashankar, residing at No:22/A, 4th Cross, behind Srinivas, Talkies, Chikkagowdanapalya, Subramanyapura, BANGALORE – 560 061, is going to create an equitable mortgage by way of deposit of title deeds of his immovable property bearing **Site No.3,** Janjaru No.513, New Property No.79/A, Old No.79/1, TMC Katha No.79/8(79/1), situated at Hennagara Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, measuring **East to West 36 feet** and **North to South 26 feet, totally measuring 936 Sq. feet,** and bounded on **East by :** Road, **West by**: Property No.79/7, **North by :** Site No.4 and **South by :** Site No.2. in favour of REPCO HOME FINANCE LTD., Hoodi Branch, Bangalore, as security for the loan to be availed by him. If any person/s has/have any claim, objection, rights, interest in the aforesaid property, may be sent to my following address ***within 7 days*** from today.

Sd/-

B. SUBRAYA KHARVI, ***ADVOCATE,***
No. 231, 11th Main, 37th Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 041.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **Sri. M. SUDHAKAR,** Aged about 39 years, S/o. Sri. Moorthy, residing at No.34, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, New Tharagupet, Bangalore-560002, represents that Original Sale Deed dated 19.11.2004, bearing Document No. ANK-1-16860/2004-05, Book-I, Stored in CD No. ANKD42, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Anekal, Bangalore, executed by M/s. Lucky Investments and Finance in favour of M. Prakash, in respect of under mentioned Schedule Property, was lost/misplaced by my client i.e., Sri. M. Suchakar. My client represents that the Original documents were not pledged/ hypothecated nor created any charge over the same in any manner.

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that my client is interested to transact in respect of the under mentioned Schedule Property.

If any person/s having any manner of right/s, claim/s, charge/s, objection/s against the under mentioned Schedule Property or any part thereof or by virtue of the above said Original Documents or in any manner affecting the rights of the Schedule property may notify the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice along with documentary proof in support of the same if no response from any body, my client will be at liberty to complete the transaction. The objections received after 7 days will not be entertained and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE Residential Vacant Plot bearing No.81, bearing Katha/House List No.849/81, issued by Neraluru Village Panchayath, Anekal Taluk, being portion of Schedule 'A' Property measuring East to West: 38 feet and North to South (31 + 32.9) / 2 in all measuring 1178 sq feet and bounded as follows:

East by: Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Site Bearing No.80, South by: Site Bearing No.82.

Sd/- **R. VIJAYA KUMAR,**
M. MANJUNATH, Advocates,
403, 4th Floor, Victory Avenue, 16, Hospital Road, Bangalore-560053.

This the 21th day of December, 2020 at Bangalore

Office of the
MANIPUR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (MANIREDA)
(An Autonomous Govt. Institute under the Power Department)
2nd Floor, South Block, Secured Office Complex, Near 2nd M.R. Gate, Imphal-Dimapur Road, Imphal-795001
e-mail : manireda99@yahoo.com; Website : www.manireda.com

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. 7/SPD(100MW)/Rfs/2021-22/MANIREDA dated 21/12/2020

Online tenders are invited from reputed firms for "Selection of Solar Power Developer for Setting up of 100MW Grid-Connected Solar PV Power Project at Jiribam, Manipur". Estimated cost of the project is Rs. 400.00 Cr approx.

Date & Time of Prebid Discussion	Last date & time for submission of E-Tender online	Date & time for opening of E-Tender
5.1.2020 at 1.30 pm	15.1.2021 Upto 12.00 Noon	15.1.2021 at 1.00 PM

Tender Document can be downloaded from the website **www.manipurtenders.gov.in** or **www.manipur.gov.in** or **www.manireda.com. Bidders have to upload their bid at www.manipurtenders.gov.in**

Prospective bidders are requested to remain updated for any amendments / modifications / cancellation, etc. in the bid document conditions / terms, in the website at **www.manireda.com.** No separate notifications will be given for such amendments / modifications in the print media (press) or intimated to the bidders separately.

Director, MANIREDA, reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- (L.MANGLEM SINGH)
Director, MANIREDA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, **SRI. NASRULLA,** S/o Late Abdul Sab, No.28/3, 1st Floor,1st Main Road,1st Cross, Gangondanahalli, Nayandahalli, BANGALORE – 560 039, intends to purchase the property being Eastern Portion of Site Khaneshumari F-34 & F-35 in Gangondanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring **East to West 30 feet** and **North to South 30 feet,** this property comes within the limits of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike ward No.39, and bounded on the **East by:** Road, **West by:** Remaining Portion of same Property belongs to Mohammed Farooq Azam Qusmi, **North by:** Site Nos. F-36 & F-37 and **South by:** Road and to create mortgage infavour of REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED, Banashankari Branch, Bangalore as security for the loan to be availed by him. If anybody has any claim, rights, title, objection, interest in the aforesaid property, may be sent to my following address ***within 7 days*** from today.

Sd/-

B. SUBRAYA KHARVI, ***ADVOCATE,***
No. 231, 11th Main, 37th Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 041.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my clients have negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property described below from its owner Mr. **A.P.GOPIKRISHNA,** aged about 54 years, Son of Late A.M. Ponnuranga Mudaliar, residing at No. 7, Sriman Srinivasa Iyengar Road, Venus Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Any person/s, Banks/Financial institutions or any other authority concerned having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest or objection in, to or upon the schedule property and its sale may intimate the same in writing supported by documentary evidence to the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS** from the date of publication hereof, failing which all rights or claims, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and my client will proceed with the purchase of the Schedule property as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Corporation No. 15 (carved out of Plot No. 2, comprised in Composite Property No. 14), situated at Murphy Road, Ward No. 82-Hoysala Nagar, PID No. 82-5-15, Bangalore, bounded on the:

East by : Property belonged to Sri. P. Yellappa,
West by: Property belonged to Sri. Munivenkatappa,
North by: Murphy Road,
South by: Siddappa's Property.
Measuring on the East : 180 feet; West : 180 feet
North : 47 feet 3 inches, and South : 47 feet 3 inches,
totally measuring the site area of 8505 Square feet or 798.43 Square Metres being the measurement little more or less.

B.M. RAJENDER, Advocate,
3/2, St. John's Road, Bangalore-560 042. M.No.98805 28287
Place: Bangalore, Date : 20th December, 2020

QuoteExpress
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING
WINSTON CHURCHILL

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Central Bank of India

Regional Office, Santosh Cinema Complex, Kempe Gowda Road, Bengaluru-560009, Phone No. 080-22265652-54, Fax: 080-22258581, E-mail: rmbangro@centralbank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Chief Manager** & the Authorised officer of the **CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Regional Office, Bangalore** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated **24.07.2020** calling upon the **Borrowers Mr.Prakash Joseph, Prop of M/s Prakruthi Constructions,** House No. 28, Third Cross Papamma Layout, Behind Old Police Station, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 34,93,313/-** (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirteen only) as on **16.07.2020** plus interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 4 of Section 13 of the act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002 on this **18th day of December 2020.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any one dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Ramamurthy Nagar Branch,** for an amount **Rs. 34,93,313/-** (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirteen only) plus further interest and Charges thereon less repayments made, if any.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No. 28, House List Khata No. 1198/1243 Present BBMP Sl.No. 643/582 in Sy.No. 46/2 & 46/3 in BBMP Ward No. 25 situate at Banaswadi Channasandra K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Karnataka admeasuring 1200 sq. feet and bounded as follows: East : Property No.29, West : Property No. 27, North : Road, South : Property No. 25.

Date: 18.12.2020 **Sd/- Authorised Officer & Chief Manager**
Place : Bangalore **Central Bank of India**

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank across India

Asset Recovery Management Branch, Phone: 080-22955928(Gen)/929(CM)
No.39/2, 2nd Floor, ASVNV Bhavan, Opp.FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009
E-Mail: blr.arm@ktkbank.com
Website: www.karnatakabank.com
CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of **KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **18-09-2020** calling upon the borrowers/mortgagor/guarantor **(1).Mr.Siddaraju B.G.,** S/o Mr.Gurusiddaiah, **(2).Mr.Basavaraju G.,** S/o Mr.Gurusiddaiah, **Both No.1 & 2 are residing at:** No.14, Banandur Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District-562109 to repay an aggregate amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.13,73,096=00 [Rupees Thirteen Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Ninety Six Only] under PSTL A/c No.9057001800019401** along with future interest from **01-04-2020** respectively, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers, mortgagor and the guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, mortgagor, guarantor and the public in general that the **undersigned has taken the possession of the property described herein below** in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this **18th day of December-2020.**

The borrowers/guarantor/mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned herein below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Karnataka Bank Limited, Bidadi Branch** for an aggregate amount of **Rs.10,73,096=00 (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Ninety Six Only) under PSTL A/c No.9057001800019401** along with future interest from **01-04-2020** respectively, plus costs.

(The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub- section (8) of Sec.13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

Description of the Immovable Property:- All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing Old No.9, New No.37/40 with land measuring 3200 Sq.ft (East to West-40 Feet and North to South-80 Feet) along with building constructed thereon situated at Banandur Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District belonging to **Mr.Basavaraju G.**

Boundaries as per documents : East : Site of B.C.Muniraju; **West :** Site of Srinivasa ; **North:** Govt. Road; **South:** Govt. Road.

Place : Banandur Village, Bidadi
Date : 18.12.2020
Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
For Karnataka Bank Ltd.,

Bank of Baroda
बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda (A Government of India Undertaking)

Peenya Branch : No.3/1A, NH4, Tumkur Road, Peenya, Bangalore - 560058
Phone : 080-28396100, Email : vjpeen@bankofindia.co.in, Web : www.bankofindia.com.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) APPENDIX IV under Act- Rule 8(1)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of **Bank Baroda, earlier Vijaya Bank, Peenya Branch,** No. 3/1A, Nh4, Tumkur Road, Peenya, Bangalore-560058, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec.13(2), read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued **Demand Notice dated 03.02.2020** calling upon the **Borrowers/Mortgager/Guarantor : 1) M/s Konnan Engineering Represented by its Proprietor, Mr. Deepak Loganathan,** S/o M. Loganathan, No.16, Byraveshwara Industrial Estate, Andrahalli Main Road, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560091. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being under being **Rs.34,08,000/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Eight Thousand Only)** as on **31.01.2020** plus interest from **01.02.2020** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Mortgager/Guarantor of the property having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Mortgager/Guarantor of the property in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this **19th day of December 2020.**

The Borrower/Mortgager/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of Baroda** for an amount of **Rs.34,08,000/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Eight Thousand Only)** as on **31.01.2020** plus interest and interest from **01.02.2020** thereon along with cost.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY : Schedule "A" Property : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Old Corporation No. 15, 15/1, 16 and 16/1, Present Corporation No. 15, PID No. 1-39-15, Situated at S M Road, Jalahalli West, Peenya Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Previously BBMP Ward No. 1, Presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Bengaluru, totally measuring 22993 Sq. ft. and bounded on : East by : Private Property, West by : Private Property/Property bearing No. 16, North by : Road, South : Road and Remaining Portion of Property bearing No. 15.

Schedule "B" Property : Item No.1 : 384 Sq.ft. undivided right title and Interest in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property together with a Residential Apartment bearing No. 110, in the Ground Floor Apartment know as " Global Aura" having Super built up area of 1490 Sq.Ft and other common areas with mosaic Flooring and finishing Honne Wooden floors and Steel windows, together with proportionate share in common space, passage, loonies Staircase, Terrace, Pipes, drains and other common areas.

Schedule "B" Property : Item No.2 : 384 Sq.ft. undivided right title and Interest in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property together with a Residential Apartment bearing No. 303, in the Second Floor Apartment know as " Global Aura" having Super built up area of 1350 Sq.Ft and other common areas with mosaic Flooring and finishing Honne Wooden floors and Steel windows, together with proportionate share in common space, passage, loonies Staircase, Terrace, Pipes, drains and other common areas.

Date : 19.12.2020 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Bank of Baroda, e-Vijaya Bank**

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I AT BENGALURU.
First Floor, Jeevan Mangal Building, No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560025

O.A. No. 323/2019

BETWEEN

Andhra Bank, (Now Union Bank of India), SSI Area Branch, (1434), No. 7/52/32, Kothari Arcade, 2nd Cross, KB Temple Street, Dr. Rajkumar Road, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010. ...**Applicant**

-Vs-

M/s. Neelam Plastics, Proprietor : Mrs. Neelam Kathotia, ...**Defendants.**

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION.

To. M/s Neelam Plastics, Proprietor: Mrs. Neelam Kathotia, No. 77/5, Pete Channeppa Industrial Estate, Kamakshipalya, Magadi Road, Sunkadakatte, Bengaluru-560079

Whereas, the Applicant named above has instituted an Applicant under ec.31-A of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you fro recovery of a sum of **Rs.15,23,547.95 (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty Seven and Ninety Five Paise Only)** with future interest, costs and such other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause on **21.04.2021 at 10.30 AM** in the forenoon in person or by a pleader/advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed fro should not be granted.

Take notice that, in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **26th day of November 2020.**

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I AT BENGALURU.
First Floor, Jeevan Mangal Building, No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560025

O.A. No. 322/2019

BETWEEN

Andhra Bank, (Now Union Bank of India), SSI Area Branch, (1434), No. 7/52/32, Kothari Arcade, 2nd Cross, KB Temple Street, Dr. Rajkumar Road, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010. ...**Applicant**

-Vs-

M/s. Karthikeyan Computer Embroidery, Proprietor : Mr. Arun Kumar. **Defendants.**

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION.

To. M/s. Karthekeyan Computer Embroidery, Proprietor: Mr. Arun Kumar M., S/o Mr. Muniswamy, Having unit at: No. 14/2, 12th Main Road, Near Gandhi Statue, Mariyasppana Palya, KP Agrahara, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.

Whereas, the Applicant named above has instituted an Applicant under ec.31-A of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you fro recovery of a sum of **Rs.16,50,457/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Fifty Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Seven Only)** with future interest, costs and such other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause on **21.04.2021 at 10.30 AM** in the forenoon in person or by a pleader/advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed fro should not be granted.

Take notice that, in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **26th day of November 2020.**

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1

QuoteExpress
DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING
SAM LEVENSON

MANIPUR STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
Secured Office Building, 3rd Floor, A.T.Line, North A.O.C, Imphal West, Manipur - 795001

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-Tender)

Imphal, the 19th December, 2020

No.2/208(RTS/PH-II)/2020-MSPDCL-TECH/2829-35: Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL), a Government of Manipur enterprise, invites Sealed Tender for **Empanelment of Developers for Design, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of aggregated capacity of 1.0 MWp Grid connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants Including Five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) in different location for Residential Sector in the state of Manipur under Phase-II Rooftop Solar Programme** from Experienced and reputed bidders & developers for works under MNRE Schemes through on-line submission.

Last Date & time for submission of Techno-Commercial Bids & Financial Bids (on line) and submission of Techno-commercial bids in hard copy along with Bid fee & EMD (if applicable)	**11.01.2021 upto 03.00 pm**

For details interested bidders may visit website :
www.manipurtenders.gov.in / www.manipur.gov.in

Interested bidders may visit the website regularly and remain updated for any amendments / modifications / Corrigendum etc. on the above mentioned Tender. No separate notifications will be given for such amendments / modifications / Corrigendum etc. in the print media (Press) or intimated to the bidders separately.

Sd/- (NG. SUBHACHANDRA SINGH)
Managing Director, MSPDCL

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
SME Peenya Branch, 13th Cross, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore- 560058, Tel: 080- 28360037/ 2661

DEMAND NOTICE SECTION 13(2) TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank, SME Peenya Branch,,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following Borrower/s/Guarantor/s to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the Borrower: (1) M/s Sree Balaji Rubbers, D 421, 10th Main, Peenya, Second Stage, Bengaluru-560058. **Partners/ Guarantors: (1).Sri B S Chandran Palaniammal,** No.2, 2nd Main, Balaji Layout, Vidyaranyapura, M S Palya Main Road, Bengaluru-560097, **(2).Smt Palani Ammal Alias Rajeswari,** No.2, 2nd Main, Balaji Layout, Vidyaranyapura, M S Palya Main Road, Bengaluru-560097,

Nature of Loan: OCC/ ODBD, Loan No: 2454261005472,
Sanctioned Amount : Rs. 25,00,000/-

Total Liability: Rs.37,36,020.43 (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Twenty and Paise Forty Three Only) Interest @ 11.95% Per Annum from **01.12.2020** together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses.

Demand Notice Date: 08.12.2020 **NPA Date:24.04.2020**

Schedule Property: Name of the Title Holder: Sri B S Chandran and Smt Palaniammal alias Rajeshwari: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.02, Khata No.56/13, Out of Converted Survey No.56/13, Converted for Non-Agricultural residential purpose vide official Memorandum NO.B.DIS/ALN/SR (N)82/1998-1999, dt: 27.02.1999, Bangalore. Situated at Mohammed Sab Palya, Jarakabandekaval Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 50 Feet and North to South: 34 Feet, totally 1700 Sq Ft and bounded as follows: East: Site No.01, West: Road, North: Site No.03, South: Road.

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on the date mentioned above. The Bank issued Registered Notice to all the above borrower/Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice. failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) TO (b) OF SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13(13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the accounts mentioned above with further Interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Date: 21.12.2020 **Sd/- Authorised officer**
Place: Bangalore **Canara Bank**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government Of India Undertaking)
SME PEENYA BRANCH, 13th Cross 2nd Stage, Peenya Industrial Area Bangalore – 560 058, Tel : 28360037/2661 Fax: 2836 1357, Email: cb2454@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

'We, **Canara Bank, SME Peenya Branch,** had issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Since the notice has not been acknowledgement returned due to non-availability of addressees at the said addresses / due to evading of service of the notices sent by RPAD, notice could not be served. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixture at the addresses given. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1) M/s Augmentix Engineering Pvt Ltd, 5-A KIADB Industrial Area Phase I, Kumbalagodu Bengaluru – 560 074. **Directors of The Company: 1) Sri. Guruprasad M.S,** 5-A KIADB Industrial Area Phase I, Kumbalagodu, Bengaluru – 560 074. **2) Smt. Usha .C.** No 242, 5th C Main Remco Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru 560 040. **Guarantor: Sri. M.K. Soma Shekara** No 242, 5th C Main Remco Layout, Vijayanagar Bengaluru 560 040.

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of sanction	Amount (Rupees in Lakh)
2454261005511	OCC/ODBD	10.06.2016 (date of last renewal)	90.00

Total Liability Amont: Rs. 99,99,923.12 (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred & Twenty Three and Paisa Twelve Only) with further cost and charges and incidental expenses and costs together with interest at the rate of 12.40%. from **01.10.2020**

NPA Date : 30.12.2019 **Demand Notice Dated : 03.10.2020**

1) Immovable : Name of Title holder: Mr. M. K. Soma Shekara.
EMT of land and Building in the name of Sri. M.K.Soma Shekara situated at No 10 (Old No 242) 5th E Main, REMCO Layout, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru 560 040 measuring 1222.50 Sq ft and bounded as : East : Plot # 242/A, West : Plot # 241, North : Plot # 243, South : Road.

2) Movable: Name of Title holder: M/s Augmentix Engineering Pvt Ltd.
Hypothecation of Stocks, Book debts, plant and machineries

You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank,** within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower / Guarantors / Mortgager including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 21.12.2020 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Canara Bank**

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण

अल्पकालीन ई– निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या – **RDD/SD/LOHARDAGA/E-13/2020-21**

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	लोहरदगा जिला के कुडू प्रखण्ड के ग्राम जोंजरो से नाम नगर से कैरो प्रखण्ड के जाने वाले पथ में स्थित कोयल नदी पर पुल निर्माण	7,22,68,900.00	14,50,000.00	10,000.00	24 माह
2	वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	:-	24.12.2020		
3	ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय	:-	दिनांक 24.12.2020 से 11.01.2021 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक		
4	ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा/मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, धुर्वा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि,एवं **Affidavit** जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	:-	12.01.2021 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक		
5	निविदा खोलने का स्थान	:-	मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, धुर्वा, राँची।		
6	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	:-	13.01.2021 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे		
7	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	:-	कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा		
8	ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०	:-	**06526-223686, 9801557189**(संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)		

9. निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैंकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
PR237936 (Lohardaga)20-21*D ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा

सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 1 - BENGALURU
No. 4, Second Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Residency Road
Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 025

SALE PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULES 38, 52/[2] OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993.
D.C.P No. 10509 IN OA. No. 870/2012
CANARA BANK [E-SYNDICATE] Vs. P. DINESH

To,

1. Mr. Dinesh P
No. 17/1A, Flat No. 1107 1st Floor, Anagha Peridot Coffee Board Layout Hebbal Kempapura Near Families Super Market Bangalore.
2. Mrs. Kavitha Dinesh W/o P Dinesh
No. 17/1A, Flat No.1107 1st Floor, Anagha Peridot Coffee Board Layout Hebbal Kempapura Near Families Super Market Bangalore.
3. Mr. Govindaraja A S/o Late Armugam
No.12, II Main Road, 11th Cross, Vittalnagar Bangalore-560026. .....**Certificate Debtors**

The undermentioned property will be sold by online e-auction through the website https://drt.auctiontiger.net on **29.01.2021** for recovery of an amount of **Rs. 2,61,90,673.83/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty One Lakhs Ninety Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Three and Paisa Eighty Three Only)** as on **31.10.2020** along with future interest and costs thereon till realization. The future interest is chargeable at the same rate till realization of the debt as per Recovery Certificate in **O.A No. 870/2012.**

SCHEDULE A & B [Lot No. 1 & 2]

Date and Time of Auction	On 29.01.2021 at 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Reserve Price	Rs. 69,00,000/-
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 6,90,000

Karnataka DyCM Ashwath Narayan said on Monday said that henceforth, Industrial Training Institute examinations will be held by the Karnataka Examination Authority. The district administration will supervise the conduct of the examination, and KEA will evaluate and announce results

'South Indian writing is truly global'

Kerala Guv Arif Mohammad Khan inaugurated TNIE's DakLF 2020 and spoke on the need for freedom of expression

When one considers the range, volume and tone of the literature from South India, we realise the extent to which they have contributed, and continue to strengthen literature. Thus, it would be appropriate to say that the literature emanating from South India is essentially pan-Indian or even global in its nature and outreach, said **Governor of Kerala Arif Mohammad Khan** and indeed, what better words could serve as the opening keynote address to The New Indian Express' Dakshin Literary Festival 2020. Being live-streamed from December 21 to 24, this lit fest brings together over 32 South Indian authors for 14 invigorating sessions.

e-expressions DAKSHIN LITERARY FESTIVAL

While introducing the Governor, Editorial Director of *TNIE* Prabhu Chawla recounts how this year, after taking the Odisha Literary Fest online, the aim was to do the same with DakLF 2020. After all, "COVID has held the world at ransom for over a year now and for many of us, words have been a solace," he said.

Khan took a moment to caution against literature getting watered down as propaganda. "There is no limit to a writer's freedom — they should decide where their own freedom ends," said the 69-year-old. He also said that though we have been forced into loneliness due to the pandemic, it is in solitude that imagination thrives. "The aim of literature is the good of the world. Its purpose is not just to reflect the world, but to redeem it. It is not to mirror what is visible to the eye but to recreate the experience. Solitude enables the writer to glimpse the vision, clothe it with sensitivity and shape it into words," he said. The Governor concluded by quoting Tagore, "He has articulated the importance of a refusal to surrender the dignity of intellect into the keeping of others. The idea of Bharat needs to reveal itself through the literature of various languages. We should be able to freely discuss the idea of Bharat without being offended by divergent views. I say this because our perspectives on global narratives are essentially Indian, whether they come from the South, East, West or North."

Art to translate Indian classic

TRANSLATION is a creative process and the process should be referred to as transcreation, says Krishna Manavalli, who translated Kannada plays by Chandrashekhar Kambar. Even though there are some things that might get lost, it has now become a cliche, adds Delhi University professor Gautam Choubey, who translated Bhojpuri novel *Phoolsunghi*, which is the first Bhojpuri novel translated into English. They, along with author and translator **Himansu S Mohapatra**, were in conversation with Daniel Thimmayya, Chief Reporter, Edex as part of DakLF on The New Indian Express' webcast e-expressions. Referring to her act and process of translation and what she finds challenging, Manavalli says, "What is more challenging for me is to retain the rhythm and musicality of the language being translated from. I am not an ethnographer, but a translator. I try to steer clear of the orientalist approach and avoid giving an exhaustive glossary to region-specific terms."

Jagadish Mohanty's novel is not merely an industrial novel and just about the workers and their issues. It is about existentialism and man's quest for meaning
Himansu Mohapatra, academic & translator

Ashwin: Fact stranger than fiction

WHEN you write books that are based on research then it's probable that somewhere along the way you are picking up information that is out there, says author **Ashwin Sanghi** talking about how sometimes even in fictional books there are incidents or instances that feel eerily similar to real-life events.

Ashwin Sanghi

"I saw that happening when I wrote *The Rozabal Line*, I predicted, part of my story was an attack happening in Mumbai with a bunch of Pakistani terrorists arriving on a boat and landing on the shores of Mumbai. That was kind of eerie. It was something that I never wanted to predict in my wildest dreams," he added.

While speaking about his new book *The Vault of Vishnu* at Dakshin Literary Festival 2020, Ashwin said, "I never set out to make a prediction, there wasn't an effort in that regard and then suddenly on Twitter and Facebook, people began sending me messages saying, 'Do you realise that now fiction seems to be playing out as fact? Where you have shown to be superhumans at the Indo-China border now there are news reports that the Chinese are actually sending their army.' For a minute I was like, 'Oh my God'. I have always maintained that fact is stranger than fiction and I am not surprised."

Responding to senior journalist and author Kaveere Bamzai, he spoke of how history has different versions and people should read all the versions, "We should not restrict the version of events but to allow multiple versions to exist. I will generally have a viewpoint but will read all the alternative viewpoints. Even when we are teaching History to students in this country, let's give them the option to choose what they want to believe as history is multi-dimensional. It's not 'what you see is what you get'."

Malayalam stories on the global stage

ACCORDING to the 2011 census, only 2.88 per cent of the Indian population spoke Malayalam. The quality of the literature produced in the language is something that one cannot afford to miss. Picture this. The JCB Prize for Literature in 2018 and 2020 were conferred to two Malayalam authors — Benyamin for *Jasmine Days* (*Mullappoo Niramulla Pagalugal*) and S Hareesh for *Moustache* (*Meesha*). The former, however, feels that not a lot of original work in Malayalam is celebrated globally, probably owing to a lack of good translators. He was in conversation with author, academician and screenwriter Lijeesh Kumar in a session of TNIE's Dakshin Literary Festival.

Flight suspension grounds plans of students, others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE suspension of flights between India and the UK from December 23-31 has played havoc with the vacation plans of many Indians, particularly students.

Among those who are worried is Randhir Banerjee, a software professional, who has flown from Newcastle to Kolkata last week to attend to his ailing parent. He told TNIE, "My father has an operation scheduled for December 29. I flew down with my wife so that we could take care of him and then get back. My return flight is on January 3. Ever since I heard about the suspension of flights this afternoon, I am anxious. As it usually happens in such cases, the suspension does get extended."

Yacoob Tucy, an Indian student in London, has appealed to the aviation ministry to help him. He tweeted, "Due to the surge in Corona cases (in UK), I planned to return to India and booked my flight on December 22. Due to flight cancellations I am stuck in UK. I am alone here with almost no funds. I am very worried. Can you please advice when flights resume. Please help."

The plans of many Indian students to meet their families back home when universities are closed for the Christmas vacation have crashed. Pratima Chaturvedi tweeted, "Request Aviation Minister to rethink suspending flights from UK as thousands of Indian students are waiting to return home. Got to be cautious and responsible. Can do Rapid test on arrival."

Karthik Reddy, a Hyderabad-based Chemical Engineer, has appealed to the Civil Aviation Ministry to help at least the students. "There is no point in cancelling flights to UK from India. Please reconsider the decision and at least allow international students to travel to UK," he tweeted.

TS on high alert over new Covid-19 strain, passengers from UK to be monitored

Hyderabad: The new virulent strain of Coronavirus has set the alarm bells ringing in Telangana. The State government has decided to conduct the RT-PCR test on all passengers who are already en route to Telangana from the UK. Those who test positive will be isolated and others sent to mandatory institutional quarantine for seven days. According to sources, there are two direct flights and eight connecting flights from UK, which bring in about 200 passengers every day. Between December 2 and 20, nearly 2,291 passengers flew down from the country. In the last 18 days, flights came in on 11 days. "We are taking this situation very seriously, like we did in March when the pandemic first broke out in our country. The air surveillance will be strict to arrest the spread of this new Covid-19 strain, which is said to be spreading rapidly," said Dr G Srinivas Rao, Director of Public Health, Telangana.

Gadkari lays foundation stone for ₹13K cr NH projects in TS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hyderabad

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari virtually inaugurated and laid foundation for 14 national highway (NH) projects in Telangana on Monday. The projects, which include 765.663 km long roads, are worth ₹13,169 crore. Speaking on the occasion, Gadkari said that a total of 59 road works with approved length of 1,918 km and a cost of ₹17,617 crore have been cleared for Telangana in the last six years. Of this, 1,782 km length has already been sanctioned with a cost of ₹15,689 crore.

"Almost all of the 33 districts in the State have connectivity with the national highways. The remaining district of Peddapally will also be connected to the network soon," he said.

The event was virtually attended by Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Gen Dr V K Singh, Telangana Minister for Roads & Buildings Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Teleangana Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, MPs and MLAs. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, however, chose to opt out of the event.

While the construction of 841 km roads worth ₹4793 crore has been completed in the State since 2014-15, work is in progress on construction of another 809 km at a cost of ₹13,012 crore, Gadkari said.

DEMAND FOR UNIFORMITY

Traders take to the streets at Yeshwanthpura APMC in Bengaluru on Monday. Traders from across Karnataka staged protest against the state government, demanding an uniform cess system. A few APMC markets were shut following the protest which affected business in various places | SHRIRAM B N

EXPRESS READ

MU student to write her final sem exam in Sri Lanka

Mangaluru: A Mangalore University student will write her BBA final semester exam at Assistant High Commissioner of India office in Kandy, Sri Lanka, during the university's special exam that will begin on December 23. Nayomi, a Sri Lankan citizen and a student of University College, Mangaluru, had written to the university, requesting them to make arrangements for her to write exams in her home country, stating that she is unable to travel to India due to Covid-induced travel restrictions. In turn, the university officials wrote a letter to Indian High Commission office in Colombo, asking it to help the student and they were happy to do so.

Abhaya case: CBI court to pronounce verdict today

T'puram: The CBI special court here will pronounce its much-awaited verdict on the sensational Sister Abhaya case on Tuesday, 29 years after she was found dead in the well of Pius X Convent in Kottayam. The 19-year-old Catholic nun, was a pre-degree student at BCM College in Kottayam when the incident happened. The local police and the Crime Branch had termed the incident as suicide and it took four CBI probes and a series of judicial interventions to cast away their theory. The probe headed by then CBI Kochi unit DySP Nandakumar Nair concluded that Abhaya's was a cold-blooded murder committed by two priests and a nun to cover-up their illicit relationship.

Kolala residents seek better compensation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Shivaramaiah, a Zilla Panchayat member from Kolala, said that the people are not against the project, but want the compensation on par with Doddaballapur, where the government has fixed ₹32 lakh per acre. "As Koratagere and Doddballapura are adjacent to each other, the compensation too should be similar. We will fight for it. Though the increase in compensation will escalate the project cost by ₹150 crore, it should not burden the government as the total cost of the project is ₹22,000 crore," he added.

Former deputy chief minister and Congress MLA from Koratagere Dr G Parameshwar, who led a farmers' protest recently, too said the compensation should be hiked and uniform.

Raju D of Machenahalli of Sasalu Gram Panchayat in Doddaballapura taluk felt that even ₹32 lakh per acre is not good enough. "We were just opening up to the civilised world by improving our lifestyle by building new houses and developing our lands. This project has come as an evil force," he cursed.

"The government has approved the Social Impact Assessment report. We will soon issue a preliminary notification to acquire the land. At some places, farmers are not letting us conduct the land survey because of the compensation issue," said a top official of Yettinahole project.

The villages under Chinnahalli and Kolala Gram Panchayat of Koratagere taluk in Tumakuru district and Sasalu Gram Panchayat of Doddaballapura taluk in Bengaluru Rural will be affected as 5,479 acres will be acquired to construct the dam at Bhyragondlu. Of these, seven villages will be completely submerged. Over 7,500 people from 1,900 families will have to relocate to new places.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, the below mentioned parties have entered into a registered Agreement of Sale dated **16-10-2020** vide Document No. **GAN-1-01840/2020-21** in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru to purchase the below mentioned schedule property with **Smt. NAGALAKSHMI SATYAVATHI. P** W/o late. P.Venkateswara Rao, Permanent Resident of No. 119, 1st Cross, "Lake Shore Garden", Thindlu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, 12th Division, Vidyaranyapura, Ward No. 9, Vidyaranyapura, BBMP, Bengaluru 560 097 now at No: 3739 Oakhurst Way, Dublin, CA 94568 USA and **Sri. Satya Venkata Durga Ravi kumar PRATTIPATI @ RAVI KUMAR PRATTIPATI** S/o late. P. Venkateswara Rao, being NRI presently R/at No: 3739 Oakhurst Way, Dublin, CA 94568 USA hereinafter referred to and called as "Vendors". The aforesaid Vendors represented that they are the joint owners, in possession and enjoyment of the below mentioned schedule property. Further they represented that no Charge or any manner of third-party interest is created on the schedule property and same is free from all encumbrances. Further represented that the title of the same was acquired by them through the registered sale deed dated 08-08-2001 vide **Document No. 3178/2001-02** in the office of the Sub Registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru. Thereafter got entered their names in the Khata register maintained by Byatarayanapura CMC and obtained sanctioned plan and license to construct the residential building thereon from the Asst. Director of Town Planning from Byatarayanapura CMC dated 06-12-2001 vide No. 784 and constructed a residential building therein. In view of area merger policy now the below mentioned schedule property comes within jurisdiction of BBMP. Accordingly, the A.R.O, Vidyaranyapura Range, BBMP has entered above said Vendors name in the Khata Register as **Khata No. 429/48/1/49/1/119** and assessed the property for tax.Further originally one Sri. M. Govindappa S/o Motappa was the owner of the 1 Acre 01 guntas of agricultural land in Sy. No. 48/1 and 0-23 guntas in Sy. No. 48/1 situated at Thindlu village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. The title of the same was acquired through the registered sale deed dated **16-04-1974** vide **Document No. 348/1974-75.** Thereafter he got entered his name in the revenue records and obtained the conversion order u/s 95 of KLR Act dated 12-07-1999 vide No. **BDS.ALN.SR(NA) 3/1999-2000** from the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District. Since said M.Govindappa entered into contract with M/s Rasa Sri Developers Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru a company registered under the Companies Act 1956 to develop the property. According he executed the registered Power of Attorney dated 24-11-1998 vide Document No. 191/1998-99 in favour of the Company to develop the property and to sell sites to the prospective buyers. Thereafter said M.Govindappa and M/s Rasa Sri Developers Pvt. Ltd jointly executed the registered sale deed in favour of the above said Vendors in respect of below mentioned schedule property.Any person/society/firm/bank/financial institution or any other body, having any right, subsisting rights, title, interest, claims on the below mentioned Schedule of Property or any part thereof by way of any agreement, contract, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, possession, lien, charge, mortgage, exchange or by any such deed/instrument of transfer, easement or otherwise, may submit their objection(s), claim(s) in writing with us at the under mentioned address through Registered Post Acknowledgement Due along with the supporting documentary proof, within **FIFTEEN DAYS (15)** from the date of this public notice. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on us and we will proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the House Property bearing **No. 119, BBMP Khata No. 429/48/1/49/1/119**, (one of the site formed in 48/1 and 49/1 Thindlu village, Bangalore North, Vide Conversion order bearing No: **ALN SR (NA) 3/99-2000 dated 12/07/1999**, passed by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore.) situated at 1st Cross, "**Lake Shore Garden**", Thindlu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Thaluk, now comes under the jurisdiction of 12th Division Vidyaranyapura and Ward No. 9, Vidyaranyapura, BBMP, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: **40** feet and North : **83.9** feet South : **87.6** feet, totally measuring **3425** Sq.Feet, comprising Ground and First and Terrace Floor RCC Roofed, 30 Squares Fifteen years old residential building with Semi Granite and Vitrified Tiles flooring, Semi Teak Wood Doors and Windows, Electricity and Water connection, and all around mud bricks compound wall and bounded on:

East by: 30 Feet Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No. 120, South by : Site No. 118.

M.Veerabhadraiah, Advocate & SMT. Latha
Presently R/at No. 29/1, 5th Cross, 13th Main, Gokula 1st Stage & Phase (HMT Layout), Bengaluru - 560054
M:9448388949 Mail:ijoorrmgm@gmail.com

Avoid Plastic Save Rain Water Create Rain Water Harvesting Structure

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY CORPORATION
Tender Notice No : 152 / 2020 - 2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION EXTENSION NOTICE

Roc. No. E1/9356/2020 (Main) Dt. 21.12.2020

Receipt and submission of tenders as per Tender Notice No. **152/2020-2021** is postponed due to administrative reason as detailed below.

Details	Date already notified	Date postponed
Last date for download of Bid Documents	**21.12.2020** Upto 15.00 Hours	**28.12.2020** Upto 15.00 Hours
Submission of bids through e-submission	**21.12.2020** Upto 15.00 Hours	**28.12.2020** Upto 15.00 Hours
Tender Opening Date and Time	**22.12.2020** Upto 16.00 Hours	**29.12.2020** Upto 16.00 Hours

Other terms and Conditions remain unchanged.

Commissioner,
Tiruchirappalli City Corporation

DIPR/ 4802 /TENDER/2020

Avoid Plastic Save Rain Water Create Rain Water Harvesting Structure

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY CORPORATION
Tender Notice No : 151 / 2020 - 2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION EXTENSION NOTICE

Roc. No. E1/8927/2020 (Main) Dt. 21.12.2020

Receipt and submission of tenders as per Tender Notice No. **151/2020-2021** is **Postponed** due to administrative reason as detailed below.

Details	Date already notified	Date postponed
Last date for download of Bid Documents	**21.12.2020** Upto 15.00 Hours	**28.12.2020** Upto 15.00 Hours
Submission of bids through e-submission	**21.12.2020** Upto 15.00 Hours	**28.12.2020** Upto 15.00 Hours
Tender Opening Date and Time	**22.12.2020** Upto 16.00 Hours	**29.12.2020** Upto 16.00 Hours

Other terms and Conditions remain unchanged.

Commissioner,
Tiruchirappalli City Corporation

DIPR/ 4803 /TENDER/2020

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax : 22215602

No : DYES/SCSP-TSP/59/2020-21 Date: 19.12.2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

According to Karnataka Transparency in public procurement act 1999 and rules 2000 the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports is inviting Tender for procurement and Installation of Sports Training Equipments in 34 Sports Hostels in Karnataka under SCSP/TSP Scheme for the year 2020-21.

Particulars: Procurement of Sports Training Equipments
Amount put to Tender : Rs. 2,11,97,350/-
EMD Amount : Rs.3,17,960/-

The tender should be submitted through e-procurement portal (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) Vendors need to register in the e-procurement portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-procurement portal.

(a) Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E-procurement Portal : Date :**18.01.2021 Time 16.00 hrs**
(b) Opening of Technical Bid : Date **19.01.2021 Time 16.30 hrs**
(C) Opening of Financial Bid : will be intimated

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin) and Tender Inviting Authority,
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports

DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:2116/2019-20

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

At ₹41K/ quintal, Savadi farmer's chilli hot in market

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

EVEN as most of the agricultural produces are not fetching a good revenue to farmers at market, a farmer here has a reason to smile.

Prakash Jogaraddi, a 38-year-old farmer from Savadi village of Ron taluk sold a quintal of dry chilli for ₹41,101 at Gadag APMC. It was the highest price ever for the commodity at the APMC here as the previous high price was ₹35,000 per quintal early this year.

It was also a surprise for Jogaraddi who had not expected such a bumper price for his produce.

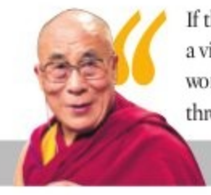
On Saturday, he took the load of chilli to the market. During e-tendering, the APMC officials announced that the chilli is sold at ₹41,101 per quintal because of its better quality. The farmers present there erupted in joy, congratulated Jogaraddi and distributed sweets.

Jogaraddi has grown chilli in two acres of land. Other farmers who had grown chilli had sold them in November, fearing crop loss. But Prakash waited for 20 days till the crop turned into light chocolate colour and sold them after a gap of one month. The wait didn't go in vain, as it fetched him the historic price. Other farmers who sold the crop in November got between ₹25,000 to ₹28,000.

Prakash and his wife at their chilli farm in Savadi village of Gadag district | EXPRESS

Jogaraddi said: "I knew I would get a good price but had least clue about getting such a high price." Jogaraddi who holds an ITI in fitter and worked at Koppal and Bengaluru, ventured into agriculture in 2015.

EDITORIAL



If those of you who are young today are going to fulfil a vision for a happier, more peaceful future in this world ... you need to sharpen your human intelligence through study, but also need to develop a warm heart

Dalai Lama

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

EPS HAS FIRST-MOVER ADVANTAGE AS POLL SEASON BEGINS IN TN

The Tamil Nadu CM has officially kicked off the AIADMK's campaign for the 2021 Assembly elections and set the ball rolling for one of the most interesting battles at the hustings in recent times. This is the first time Edappadi K Palaniswami is going to fight as AIADMK's chief ministerial candidate. Earlier, the party had strategically unknotted a possible leadership tangle between him and his deputy O Panneerselvam to pave the way for a united front against multiple contestants. The two leaders even overhauled the party apparatus by appointing new organising secretaries, bifurcating and trifurcating party districts for better coordination. They also stressed on the need to strengthen booth committees.

It is to his credit that Palaniswami has been the only political leader in TN who has extensively traversed the state in recent months ever since the total lockdown was lifted in July, personally meeting those worst hit by the pandemic, such as farmers, women's self-help groups, traders and MSME entrepreneurs. He almost always added a dollop of human connect during his visits by getting off the car on many occasions to sink his feet into slushy farmlands, interacting with farmers and sometimes even advising passersby to compulsorily wear face masks. Apart from his frequent visits to hospitals, his announcement of 2,000 mini clinics across the state will be perceived as coming at an appropriate time. By these gestures, he seems to have branded himself as a grassroots leader, never missing an opportunity to convey this to his opponents as well.

Further, by projecting TN as the favoured investment destination by signing deals worth more than ₹50,000 crore, the CM has conveyed the message that his government is wedded to the concept of marrying agriculture with industrialisation. However, his biggest talking points will be the announcement of 7.5% NEET reservation for students of government schools and the caste survey. Palaniswami was written off by political pundits the day he became CM, yet he showed surprising survival skills. The challenge now is to connect with the voters and convince them to give his party another shot at power. How well he goes about it and shakes off anti-incumbency remains to be seen.

TEST OF MEN IN BLUE'S METTLE IN AUSTRALIA

Sport tests characters. Sometimes, it throws challenges that seem unsurmountable. The Indian cricket team finds itself in such a situation right now. Battered by Australia in the first Test literally and mentally, it has the onerous task of saving face in the remaining three encounters. Even drawing the series without captain-cum-main batsman Virat Kohli—on paternity leave—and injured fast bowler Mohammed Shami will enhance by several notches the reputation of this team. But if the embarrassment continues, it will once again make a mockery of coach Ravi Shastri's claim that this is the best Indian team in the last 10-15 years.

Number 1 in ICC Test rankings, India's performance in testing conditions overseas has been poor in the period when it has topped the chart. Although the Kohli-Shastri combine recorded India's only series win in Australia two years ago, the pair lost in places that matter on every other occasion—England (2018), South Africa (2017-18), New Zealand (2020) and Australia (2014-15). The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is by far the richest of all the boards, cricket is not the most popular sport in any of the countries mentioned and India has way more players to choose from than them. Despite these key factors, India is not the best Test team in the real sense of the word and it has not won any global limited-overs title after 2013. The BCCI has become multiple times richer in this period.

If they fail to put up a fight in the remaining Tests, it will show that the Indian players prefer to be tigers at home who lose teeth in unfamiliar conditions. It is time to prove they are not merely the richest cricketers in the world, but also capable ones who perform when the going gets tough. The coach has to help the players come out of the trauma of getting bowled out for 36. And it is in times like these that Shastri's role becomes important. At the end of the series, we shall get an idea of where this team stands vis-a-vis his tall claims.

After spending almost all of 2020 in the clutches of the coronavirus, the year ahead is one to look forward to. But there will be five trends that will pose a challenge

THE FIVE DEADLY TRENDS FOR THE NEW YEAR

HARISH BIJOOR

Brand Guru & Founder, Harish Bijoor Consults

AMIT BANDRE

By the time you read this, it is well nigh nearly time to lock down 2020 and throw the key away. The year has been a classic one that disconnected many lives and livelihoods. Fear ruled and the pandemic robbed us of many things. Our way of life, our celebratory mindset and our unbridled freedom are just three things 2020 snatched from us.

The year ahead is one to look forward to. I have chosen five trends that will be a challenge to us after an already tough year gone by. Yes, one must always look forward with hope, but that hope must be one garnished with generous bites of reality in it.

The five deadly trends for 2021 then.

1. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer: The world is getting cleaved once again. The divide is widening and deepening. The poor get poorer as jobs vanish, increments evaporate and cheaper substitution becomes the norm in the workplace. Every business wants to achieve optimisation of its costs. The corporate sector will declare good and big profits this year, as it must. If this means that men must be replaced by machines, so be it. Automation is the way.

The demand for the traditional workforce would fizzle. The only blessed aberrations here are in the fields of work that are not yet close enough and open to automation in India. Agriculture is one such. A big one. I'm afraid I can't find too many else.

The rich get richer as money has a way of making more money. As the economy revives, money diligently, intelligently and fruitfully employed will generate good returns for those who have it. And those who don't make real money will make virtual money on the stock market through the hedge of the mutual fund. India, a traditionally fixed-deposit oriented nation, is going to get into the aggressive virtual money market with the stock markets being locales to thrive in. The rich and the great Indian middle class (with a risk appetite) will get richer. And no grudging this.

Importantly, the poor getting poorer is a deadly trend that shouldn't be ignored. It has lessons for governments, banks, businesses and socially conscious citizens. Time to rearrange their priorities, products, services and, importantly, profits. The "next 6 billion" in a 7.8 billion population world is therefore more important than the number that is smaller. "Poor banking", "poor funding", "poor marketing", "poor distribution", and indeed a whole host of poor-led initiatives need to be in the pipeline of every vertical of business in 2021. Time to even cleave businesses into SBUs that are poor-focussed as opposed to the profit-focussed. If one eye is rich, the other needs to be poor.

2. Money seeks opportunity as opposed to opportunities that seek money: The world of investments is turning turtle. Money of every kind, whether foreign or Indian, is desperately wanting to find a suitable home. And there is a surfeit of money around. With global markets offering next to 0% interest rate regimes, this money is on an opportunity hunt. Wherever it finds one, it will go.

This is a deadly trend as money will fly in and out at whim and will. Markets, regulations, businesses, margins and literally everything that act as a pacifier in money markets need to be sensitively re-leveraged for efficiency. A nation that believes in the FDI route to funnel this money in is certainly a more solid nation than one that gets excited about FII inflows.

As the pandemic fades and a reliable vaccine enters the picture, people get excited. And in celebration of this, all of us will forget all those armchair resolutions to get more inclusive, more green and less greedy

3. The three kinds of jobs: Jobs in literally every space of work will get divided into three, which will have an impact on livelihoods. There is the permanent employee, the gig employee and the machine employee. The least paid of them all in most industries is likely to be the permanent employee. The gig employee—who is the consultant, the advisor, the implementer and the temporarily outsourced entity—will flit from one work-spot to another. The hunger in the belly of this person is going to be something else. The third type of employee is the machine one. As more and more physically-numbing and laborious pieces of work get done by machines, they will free people. The first free-fall of people will therefore result in tumult in the job market.

A fair bit of relearning, upskilling, reskilling and cross-skilling will become the need of the moment in 2021. More than now. And more than ever.

4. Enter the home: A lot more will happen in a home. Apart from the obvious rest and rejuvenation; work, workout, entertainment, education and literally everything that can be done through a digital mode will come home. Expect this to cascade. This is a deadly trend as the dividing line between workspace and home space blurs. People-clashes within the space of the home will be the norm. Mental health needs to go on preventive care mode as opposed to a total curative care as it is now.

5. Back to the future: This is the deadliest trend of them all for 2021. In the early months of the pandemic, every right-thinking human being across the planet was jolted out of the taken-for-granted way of life. This was a comma moment, one to pause and think of the way we do things. The pace, the rampant greed, the lopsided priorities between man and nature, and lots more.

And guess what, the deadly trend ahead is disturbing. Viewer discretion is advised. As the pandemic fades and a reliable vaccine enters the picture, all of us are going to get excited that man has done it again. Man has won!

And in celebration of this nice thought, all of us will forget all those armchair resolutions of ours to get more inclusive, more charitable, more green, more patient and less greedy. I am afraid there is going to be a revenge-return to the space of status quo ante on this count. And that is the deadliest trend of them all to watch.

(harishbijoor@hotmail.com)

IS LETTER OF COMFORT REALLY A POINTLESS SECURITY?

KAVYA LALCHANDANI

Legal scholar based out of Delhi

A Letter of Comfort [LoC] is a financial instrument that is usually given by the parent company or the promoter, attesting to the financial soundness and solvency of the obligor (the company receiving the credit from the lenders). A lot of debate has already taken place with regard to the enforceability of such an instrument that could not be put under the strict definition of a guarantee. But the similarities between the two instruments cannot be ignored. A typical contract of guarantee also has three parties where a third person (the parent company or the promoter, in this case) acts as a surety for the principal debtor (obligor or the company taking the loan) to the lender. A contract of guarantee has its own rules of enforcement given under the Indian Contract Act, 1872. However, the position of LoC as being covered under the Act has been a contentious issue.

In Lucent Technologies v. ICICI Bank, the Delhi High Court had stated that whether such a Letter would be treated as guarantee or not depends on the intention and the wordings of the LoC. In that case specifically, there was no manifest intention to make that letter enforceable as a guarantee as derived from the literal interpretation of the phrases used and therefore it was held to be unenforceable. This decision had specifically referred to pre-decided principles of common law.

In United Breweries Ltd. v. Karnataka State Industrial Investment and Development Corporation, the Karnataka High Court had held that the value of such a letter is merely recommendatory and not enforceable per se unless the obligations have been specifically undertaken by the issuer. The court relied upon the definition given by P Ramanatha Aiyar in his book on advanced contracts, which can be stated thus: "Letter of Comfort—A document that indicates one party's intention to try to ensure that another party complies with the terms of a financial transaction without guaranteeing performance in the event of default."

On the other hand, in Intesa Sanpaolo v. Videocon, the Bombay High Court had looked at the interconnectedness of the terms of LoC with the decision of the lender to grant any credit or loan. In the said LoC, the decision to grant the loan was contingent on execution of such LoC and in such cases, the nature of LoC assumes the form of guarantee irrespective of the form in which it is given. It is important to bring in the principles of the Contract Act as they rely only on the intention of the parties executing the contract and do not provide for any straight-jacket formula of drawing up a contract that might be enforceable under the law.

A lot of debate has taken place with regard to the enforceability of this financial instrument, which cannot be put under the strict definition of a guarantee. In this article, we will look at a series of judgments that show that the nature of the Letter of Comfort in most cases has been held to be unenforceable unless it states the undertaking of liability on default in unequivocal terms

Recently, this issue was again interpreted in Yes Bank Limited v. Zee Entertainment by the Bombay High Court. The court looked at whether the terms of the letter amounted to guarantee under Section 126 of the Indian Contract Act (which defines a contract of guarantee). The court also referred to Banque Brussels Lambert SA v. Australian National Industries on which a heavy reliance was placed by Yes Bank wherein it has been held: "There should be no room in the proper flow of commerce for some purgatory where statements made by businessmen, after hard bargaining and made to induce another business person to enter into a business transaction would, without any express statement to that effect, reside in a twilight zone of merely honourable engagement. ... If these statements are appropriately promissory in character, courts should enforce them when they are uttered in the course of business, and there is no clear indication that they are not intended to be legally enforceable." But the fact of reliance was found to be misguided because the action that was proposed to be taken was that of damages and not enforcement of guarantee or specific performance of the obligations. For this, the court heavily relied on the communications subsequent to the issuance of LoC where Yes Bank neither filed a suit for loan recovery or sought enforcement of put option agreement. Furthermore, the obligations being prayed to be enforced and undertaken by the LoC are different.

Thus, it can be seen through the series of judgments that the nature of the LoC in most cases has been held to be unenforceable unless it states the undertaking of liability on default in unequivocal terms. Such an instrument that is based on the trust of the parties creating binding relations between them should be formulated in those terms.

A question may be asked as to why then should LoC be treated as a security anyway. The answer to this lies in the construction of the agreement and the intention of the parties. The lender especially should be cautious of the wordings of the letter being issued. Otherwise, this will result in commercial uncertainty of the transaction and will frustrate the purpose of the security so issued.

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Don't let it enter India

More virulent strains of Covid-19 have been noticed in the UK, Netherlands, South Africa and some other countries. We must stop passenger flights from all these nations immediately. If these strains enter India, it could be devastating.

Kavi Rama Murthy, Bengaluru

Must be utmost priority

Covid-19's new variant has raised alarm bells in many nations and they have rightly isolated the UK for the time being, especially considering the festive season. The Indian government rightly called for an emergency meeting and this issue must be given utmost priority amidst the vaccine rollout to prevent this from becoming deadlier than the first version.

Jitesh Mathur, Hyderabad

Not wrong of forex dept

BKU leader Sukhdev Singh has called the forex department seeking their registration details for foreign donations a part of the Centre's pressure tactics to defeat the agitation. But what is wrong with asking if there is some doubt? If they are not doing anything wrong, they should just provide the details without a fuss.

M Manivannan, email

Deliberations inadequate?

'Acting in haste and repenting at leisure' is an appropriate adage to describe the stalemate the Centre finds itself in against the farmers. Inadequate deliberations and circumventing Parliamentary committees may have resulted in dishing out half-baked laws.

A Raveendranath, Aranmula

Govt must convince people

This is with reference to *Andhra Pradesh's capital imbroglio* (Dec 21). The government needs to come out with a roadmap to convince people and defend its decision about the three-capital system. People are more interested in governance than the blame game between the ruling parties and the opposition.

C Ghanshyam, Visakhapatnam

Doesn't seem promising

Having spent crores of rupees on Amaravati, whether it is prudent to shift the capital is a moot point. It is baffling as to why the government is trying to implement the three-capital system when it does not seem very promising.

Y D Ramdas, Visakhapatnam

Better late than never

This is with reference to *Takeaways from apex court order on affordable Covid care* (Dec 21). The editorial has rightly pointed out that the court should have interfered during the initial lockdown. But better late than never. Now that a vaccine is in the offing, we will hopefully have better prospects in the new year.

Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

Apply order to vaccines

There is ample evidence that Covid is on the decline and another wave is unlikely. The massive election rallies in Bihar, the farmers agitations, etc., without proper protocol did not result in the expected infection explosion. The court order should now be applied to the vaccines coming soon.

Hemanth Bhide, Mangaluru

Teachers forging degrees

The Rajasthan regime's decision to initiate action against government school teachers who secured promotions with fake degrees is quite prudent. Besides the 850 who were caught from Jodhpur, there are more teachers with such forged degrees in other districts of the state.

Thomas K M, Muvattupuzha

Not enough judges

All our courts seem to lack sufficient judges due to vacancies not being filled quickly. Due to this, millions of cases are not disposed of on time. The authorities must take necessary steps to tackle this problem urgently so that citizens get solutions to their litigations within a maximum period of six months.

A M Daniel, Hyderabad

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Tejasvi Surya @Tejasvi_Surya
Farmers can get into contracts with corporates only for crop. No entity can take away farmer's land. And any breach of contract will attract hefty penalty

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
Since many claim that I don't give PM @narendramodi credit where it's due, i applaud his excellent plan to set up a library of Buddhist literature in India.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi
Distraught over the death cows in UP, I am writing to the UP CM. This is the situation in many 'gaushalas' in the state.

India may have missed tracing of new Corona strain: Experts

UK had first such case in Sept when India had gone slow on Covid genome sequencing

Workers prepare an operation theatre at an ICU ward, specially for Covid-19 patients, in Bengaluru | FILE

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

INDIA may already have the new strain of Covid-19 as the process of analysing genomes of SARS-CoV-2 was comparatively down in the period when it was first identified in the UK, said experts studying the mutations of coronavirus.

The virus mutations identified by genome sequencing of thousands of SARS-CoV-2 samples globally have been primarily classified into 10 'clades'. India, so far, has sequenced over 4,300 genomes and identified eight clades — A1a, A2, A2a, A3, B, B1, B4 and I/A3i.

The most predominant clade world over is A2a and was found in majority around 70% of Indian cases followed by I/A3i, which is unique to India.

"While we have not found the new strain of virus prevalent in the UK, but the genomes submitted by India in the last 3-4 months have been less. The official UK reports say that the first case of this virulent strain of SARS-CoV-2 was reported in September. There is a possibility that we may already have that particular strain in India and it may have gone undetected till now," said senior scientists studying the virus mutation in India.

The data collated by CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) shows that the majority of 4,300 genome sequencing in India was done between April-August (4,000) and the number started dwindling between September-November (300).

The sequencing data has been submitted by around 30 national research institutions, laboratories and hospitals among others. The highest number of genomes has been sequenced from Delhi (730) followed by Telangana (626) and Gujarat (618). The genetic makeup of the virus holds key information in understanding the spread of the Covid-19 across the world and by studying virus mutations, scientists can better understand how efficiently the virus bind and replicated inside a human body.

Need national plan to tackle Covid-like crisis: Panel

NEW DELHI: The sudden lockdown imposition resulted in unprecedented disruptions, including stoppage of intra and inter-state movement of people, goods, the shutdown of factories, hotels, eateries, tourism etc and other economic activities with severe social and economic fallouts, a Parliamentary standing committee on Home Affairs has said in a report on Covid-19 situation.

The committee has recommended the formation of a national plan under the NDMA, 2005 and Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 for co-ordination between the Centre, states & UTs for quick response to such a crisis in future. The panel noted that the NDMA is meant for handling disasters and not for handling the pandemic/epidemic which happens in decades and even once in a century.

"The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, is outdated as it was framed in the colonial-era and needs revisiting, updation and amendment," it said.

Rajya Sabha MP Anand Sharma, who led the panel, stated that the committee "would ensure efficacious implementation of all decisions to contain pandemics and equitable/timely distribution of relief at district and sub-divisional levels to the intended beneficiaries in urban and rural areas."

In the report submitted to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu through video conferencing on "Management of COVID-19 pandemic and related issues", the panel examined the various aspects of the seriousness of the situation arising out of the pandemic.

The panel recommended the government to prepare a national database of migrant workers at the earliest, observing that the migrants are the backbone of the industrial sector, but due to the lockdown many migrant workers lost their jobs.

It appreciated the government's efforts to extend relief measures to the vulnerable sections but added that the absence of a national database, it is difficult to extend the relief measures to the intended beneficiaries.

ENS

UK Covid variant 70% more infectious

What is the new mutation in the virus and why has it triggered the panic across the world?

The new UK variant, VUI-202012/01 or lineage B.1.1.7, carries a larger than a usual number of mutations and had first been detected in the third week of September. There are two key mutations in the spike protein that may be important for transmission and virulence. These include a key contact residue that increases affinity for ACE2 receptor and P681H — one of the four amino acids that creates an S1-S2 cleavage site.

These mutations have been seen earlier independently but never together. Both would give the virus an ability to infect cells more efficiently and thus, show increased transmission. As per mathematic modellings, this strain of the virus is about 70% more infective.

Scientists say there is no evidence to suggest the new virus strain can't be tackled by the wide range of antibodies generated by current Covid-19 vaccines | FILE

Should we be more worried?

Senior virologist Shahid Jameel says the variant virus is expectedly spreading faster but also points out that there is, so far, no evidence that it causes worse disease. But according to K Srinath Reddy, head of the Public Health Foundation of India who is also a member of India's National Task Force on Covid-19, due to the high transmissibility of the virus, there would be a higher number of people infected and as a result, a higher number of deaths due to the disease could occur in terms of absolute number.

What could the development mean for Covid-19 vaccines underway and those that have been rolled out for emergency use purposes?

Medical scientist Gagandeep Kang insists that there is no evidence to suggest the new virus strain cannot be tackled by the wide range of antibodies generated by the current Covid-19 vaccines under trial or those launched already. "As these vaccines stimulate a broad antibody response to the entire spike protein, it is anticipated that their efficacy will not be significantly hampered by mutations," she said.

Some biologists like Seyed Hasnain, however, point out there is an increasing body of evidence that other species of seasonal coronaviruses exhibit some ability to escape immunity over longer periods.

"We may, therefore, need to change our approach in times to come," he said, adding that only paying attention to spike protein — part of the virus that attaches to the cell — and not the epitope for vaccines against Covid-19 vaccine development may not be good.

SUPPORT FROM BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY SURVIVORS

Bhopal: The survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy will join the agitating farmers in by banging thalis (plates) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann ki Baat show on December 27. Four organisations staged a protest in Bhopal on Monday in support of the farmers and demanded immediate scrapping of the farm laws. They also alleged that the laws were designed to help big private companies

FARMERS BEGIN RALLY FROM NASHIK TO DELHI

Farmers under the AIKS banner have left Nashik for Delhi as part of a vehicle march. Around 3,000 farmers have participated in the march on Monday, which is in solidarity with farmers who are protesting against the Centre's farm laws for almost a month. Reports said the first group of farmers will stop for the night Chandvad, a place 40 km away from Nashik.On Tuesday, 7,000 more farmers will join them.

WILL DECIDE OUR RESPONSE TO CENTRE'S LETTER TODAY: FARMERS

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE farmer unions will decide on Tuesday whether to hold talks with the Union government, though they maintained that they were always ready for a dialogue as long as the government offered a "concrete solution".

They said the government was only biding its time. "The government letter is not specific and offers nothing new," said a union leader.

Bhartiya Kisan Union Punjab (Lakhowal Group) general secretary Harinder Singh Lakhowal said: "We'll evaluate the government letter. All the 40 unions' leaders in the Sanyukt Morcha will meet tomorrow and decide whether to hold talks with the government".

In the letter, the Central government has asked the unions to discuss its proposal and convey a date for another round of talks. "But we have already rejected the government proposal to amend the new farm laws as our demand is clear: repeal all the three farm laws," Lakhowal said.

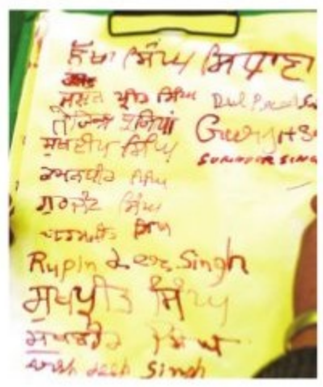
Gurmeet Singh of Krantikari Kisan Union said: "We have already sent them our proposals and rejected theirs. The government needs to respond back to us."

Another farmer leader Kashmir Singh of All India Kisan Samiti (Punjab) said, "The government should give us a date for the meeting or they can come to us for talks, to see firsthand how we are living."

The government's letter was sent by Agriculture Ministry's joint secretary Vivek Aggarwal, asking the farmers to specify their concerns over its earlier proposal of amending the laws and choose a convenient date for the next round of talks to end the ongoing agitation.

Meanwhile, the farmers in groups of 11 have started a relay hunger fast from Monday.

In a related development, Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja alleged that at the behest of the Centre, the BJP government in Haryana was raising the SYL issue to create a divide in the farmers' movement.



A farmer writes with blood to the PM at Singhu border on Monday | PARVEEN NEGI

We'll evaluate the letter. All the 40 unions leaders in the Sanyukt Morcha will meet tomorrow and decide whether to hold talks with the government —Harinder Singh Lakhowal, BKU (Lakhowal Group)

'This protest will only grow stronger'

NEW DELHI: The farmer protest is emerging stronger despite the hate and propaganda of the government to defame the movement, said a union leader.

All India Kisan Sabha general secretary Hannan Mollah reiterated that the farmers are firm that the protest will only grow stronger until the government repeals the three central laws.

"Despite the hate and propaganda of the government to defame our movement, the protest has been emerging stronger. We will defeat the government and not let this anti-farmer, anti-poor law be implemented," Mooah said at the end of a Janta parliament that concluded on Monday.

The three-day virtual consultation on the farmer protest had an array of speakers including veteran journalist P Sainath, senior advocate Prashant Bhushan, social activists Aruna Roy, Shankar Singh, Nikhil Dey, and Kavita Krishnan among others.

"Since the passage of these laws affect all, this campaign is not to save farmers but to save India. There has been a lot of misinformation and propaganda against the movement. We pledge to expose misinformation and propaganda," Roy said.

Tribal activist T Senthil Kumar appealed the people at large to come together against the farm laws, which he said, should have benefitted the farmers. "We will become slaves of corporates therefore, adivasis are prepared to continue fighting against the laws which will snatch all decision making powers from farmers."

The Janata parliament passed a resolution seeking repealing of the laws, a session of parliament to discuss the agrarian crisis, called for organised public action against the corporates and government policy of privatising agriculture. *ENS*

India, Vietnam sign 7 key pacts at online summit

NEW DELHI: India and Vietnam signed seven pacts during their virtual summit on Monday in defence, petrochemicals, and nuclear energy, and agreed to intensify their development partnership that will enable achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs), and develop capabilities to address climate change.

PM Narendra Modi, who attended the event with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc, said Vietnam was "an important pillar of India's Act East policy and an important ally" of the Indo-Pacific vision.

While adopting the joint vision statement, both the leaders welcomed the signing of the plan of action for the period of 2021-2023 which identify concrete follow up actions. They said the agreements would further boost bilateral cooperation in a range of areas. Phuc said Vietnam was in agreement on India's proposal for a further defence line of credit. *ENS*

India's leopard population rises by 60% in four years, crosses 12,000: Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE population of leopard in India has increased by 60 per cent since the 2014 census, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday said on Monday. However, the worrying trend has been the increase in the leopard-human conflict, with the wild cat forced to venture out of forest due to fragmented habitats owing to development, according to the 'Status of Leopard in India 2018' report, released by Javadekar, which says India now has 12,852 leopards.

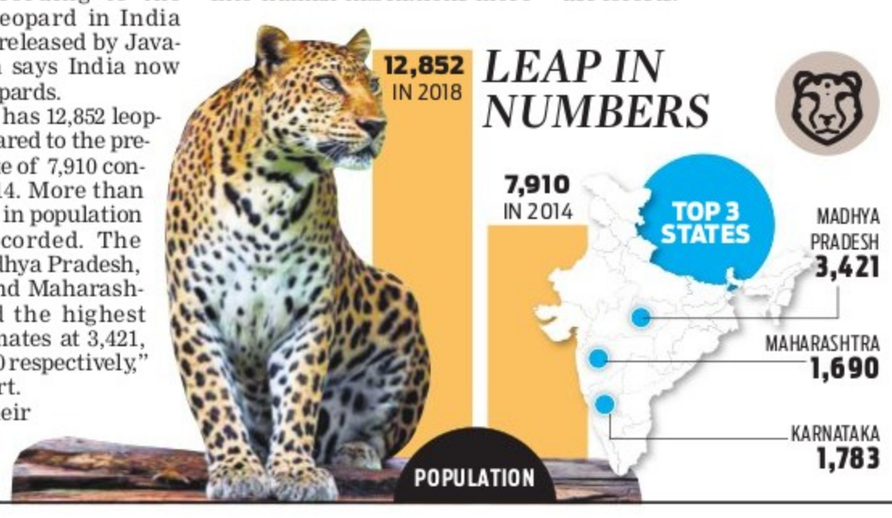
"India now has 12,852 leopards as compared to the previous estimate of 7,910 conducted in 2014. More than 60% increase in population has been recorded. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra recorded the highest leopard estimates at 3,421, 1,783 and 1,690 respectively," says the report.

"Despite their widespread distribution, leopard habitats are being increasingly fragmented, and such small fragmented areas with low wild prey densities cannot harbour a sizable population of leopards," it adds.

It further says that the intense conflicts are mostly reported from hills of Shivalik-Terai landscape and parts of Central India.

The report suggested that with leopards venturing out into human habitations more often, developmental projects need appropriate mitigation measures and greener technology to sustain not only leopards but also other carnivores and biodiversity in general.

India's world record tiger survey also estimated the population of leopards and the tiger range was found a home to 12,852 (12,172-13,535) leopards. They occur in prey rich protected areas as well as multi-use forests.



EXPRESS READ

Shah to head panel on Netaji events

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah will head a panel for planning events on the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The panel members will include experts, historians, authors, kin of Netaji as well as eminent persons associated with Azad Hind Fauj. It will guide the commemoration activities in Delhi, Kolkata, and other places associated with Netaji and Azad Hind Fauj.

Modi addresses meet with Japan

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi said it was necessary to keep humanism at the core of country's policies while addressing the Sixth Indo-Japan SAMVAD conference. "Hostility will never achieve peace. In the past, humanity took the path of confrontation instead of collaboration," he said. He proposed the creation of a library of traditional Buddhist literature and scriptures in India.

Sonia loyalist Motilal Vora dies day after 93rd birthday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

VETERAN Congress leader Motilal Vora, a Gandhi family loyalist, passed away following post-Covid-19 complications on Monday, a day after he celebrated his 93rd birthday.

Vora, who had retired from Rajya Sabha in April 2020 and was recently relieved of the party's administrative responsibility due to advancing age, was hospitalised last week after he had recovered from the Covid-19 infection.

MOTILAL VORA
1927-2020

During his five-decade-long political career, Vora wore several hats —twice Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Union minister in former PM Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet, UP governor in nineties and Member of Parliament in both the Houses. Before joining politics, he had worked as a journalist. One of the oldest members of the Congress, Vora was Sonia Gandhi's confidante and loyalist. He was party treasurer for 18 years before late Ahmed Patel took over the charge in 2018. Even at 92, Vora rarely missed office and would reach the AICC headquarters in the morning and would leave before lunchtime. He would attend the Upper House every day and had remained active by raising questions.

"He was one among the few party functionaries who would meet party workers every day, patiently hear them and none would leave without a cup of tea. Many would turn up at his office to seek advice and he was the chronicler of the party," said a senior party leader.

He enjoyed respect across party lines. PM Narendra Modi condoled his passing away. "Shri Motilal Vora Ji was among the senior-most Congress leaders, who had vast administrative and organisational experience in a political career that spanned decades. Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family and well-wishers," Modi tweeted.

MAOIST GUNNED DOWN

RANCHI: Wanted PLFI Maoist Zeedan Guria, having bounty of `15 lakh on his head, was gunned down by security forces during an encounter at Koengsar under Murhu Police Station in Khunti on Monday

11 GRENADES DROPPED IN PUNJAB'S GURDASPUR BY PAKISTANI DRONES ON SUNDAY

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	12	Mumbai	32	20
Bhopal	24	8	Panaji	34	22
Jaipur	26	11	Patna	17	8
Amritsar	21	4	Lucknow	28	8
Chennai	29	23	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	23	11	Imphal	21	7
Srinagar	7	-1	Chandigarh	21	7

Shah orders writing on the wall

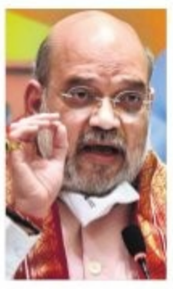
Union Home Minister urges Bengal cadre to complete graffiti on 3,90,000 walls in State

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

NOT only the walls of social media platforms, graffiti on at least 3,90,000 walls across the state will have to be completed within a month — this was an instruction from the Union Home minister Amit Shah to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP's) Bengal functionaries during his two-day West Bengal visit.

In a meeting with the party's Bengal functionaries, Shah instructed to complete graffiti on at least five walls in each of the 78,000 booth area within January 15. Setting up the goal, Shah said the graffiti within the stipulated time would help gauge the party's ground-level strength in reality.

Graffiti is an unavoidable part in Bengal's electoral practices. Political parties get engaged in a battle to take control of the walls of domestic houses, business establishments, and government properties ahead of elections to showcase their strength at the grassroots. Shah's instruction is said to be significant to measure the party's actual strength in booth level.



"Booth level organisational strength plays a crucial role before and on the day of elections. If our workers can meet the goal set by the Home minister within January 15, it will reflect a picture of our present strength. The battle for occupying walls will get intensified day by day. Graffiti always gives an impression about a political party's presence and strength in a particular pocket and it can influence non-committed electorates," said a BJP leader.

Both the Trinamool Congress and BJP have already started painting walls with the symbol of their parties in some of the areas. In some of the pockets, clashes between the supporters of the Trinamool Congress and BJP took place over the graffiti issue.

"The race for capturing walls four months before the polls is unprecedented in the history of Bengal's politics. Generally, it starts after the Election Commission isssues notification announcing the election schedule and political parties disclose the list of their candidates. Names of candidates are written on the walls. But now, we will have to do it with our party symbol and contents attacking our rival party," said the BJP leader.

'Shah's statement a garbage of lies'

Kolkata: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday described Union Home minister Amit Shah's statement alleging poor governance in West Bengal as a garbage of lies. Referring to Shah's allegation of Bengal government's failure in different segments, she said, "We are number 1 in constructing roads in rural Bengal. This is not my claim. It is available in the record of central government. He is echoing what his party leaders are feeding him."

Camps involving officials are being organised in all municipalities and blocks. In 2019-20, we spent `15,000 crore on schemes. This year, the volume is `24,255 crore

Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister

Kishor's double digit twitter dare for BJP

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor stirred up a hornet's nest by tweeting that he would quit the micro-blogging site if the BJP crossed a double-digit mark in the 294-seat Bengal Assembly. Senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayavargiya opened a salvo at Kishor, saying that the BJP tsunami would ensure TMC is wiped off, and the nation would lose a poll strategist

BJP MP loses wife to Didi, threatens divorce notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

BJP MP Saumitra Khan's wife Sujata Mondal Khan joined the Trinamool Congress on Monday alleging that she did not get her due recognition even after working hard to ensure her husband's victory in the last year's general elections from Bishnupur Lok Sabha constituency.

"Despite risking physical attacks and sacrificing so much to get my husband elected to Parliament, I received nothing from the party. I want work under our beloved leader Mamata Banerjee and dada Abhishek Banerjee," said Sujata after joining the TMC.

Khan, who had defected from the TMC to the BJP before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, said he would send Sujata a notice for mutual divorce because her decision shocked him. "I know the TMC steals coal, sand and involved in cattle smuggling. But I never imagined they would take away my wife. The TMC has destroyed my 10 years' relationship with Sujata. From now, I will have no relation with her. The TMC will have to pay for it as I will fight against the ruling party till the end," said Khan.

The drama over the change in the couple's political alignment reached the peak when Khan held a press conference with tears in his eyes. Sujata, in a similar emotional tone, said Khan forgot her because of his party activities. "He should tell his party bosses to project him as the chief minister's face in the Assembly elections as a reward of his dedication," she said.

GUNNING FOR PEACE

Dristi Rajkhowa, Deputy Commander-in-chief of the banned rebel group ULFA, arriving with his wife to surrender during a ceremony in Gauhati. Sixty-three militants of ULFA and three other organisations surrendered on Monday | AP

NEW STRAIN TO MAHA AS NIGHT CURFEW STARTS

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA government on Monday announced the night curfew from 11.00 pm to 6.00 am from Tuesday in the municipal limit areas of state. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had called the meeting at his residence Varsha in view of rising Covid 19 positive cases in England and Europe.

Thackeray declared that the fliers coming from Europe and West Asia will have undergo the 14-day mandatory institutional quarantine period in Maharashtra. Other than Europe and West Asian countries passengers, will be stamped for home isolation at the airport. The respective municipal corporation will talk with hotels and make the arrangement for a quarantine period for the fliers.

Thackeray said that the new Covid19 virus has been speedily spreading in England.

"As a precaution, Maharashtra government has imposed this night curfew still January 5, 2021. After that, the review meeting will be called and further decisions will be taken," Thackeray said.

"The fliers who are under the 14 days compulsory quarantine period, we have to do the RT PCR swab test at the fifth or seventh days of their quarantine period. After completing the quarantine period, they will be allowed to go home. If the new virus or Covid 19 virus symptoms had detected in the fliers, then they will be admitted in the respective area hospital for the further medical treatment," said health minister Rajesh Tope.

As a precaution, Maharashtra government has imposed this night curfew still January 5, 2021. After that, the review meeting will be called and further decisions will be taken

Uddhav Thackeray, Maharashtra CM

Thackeray has decided to call the meeting of municipal commissioners and district collectors to implement the night curfew properly. The state government has also asked people to arrange the marriages by inviting minimum people and the big social gatherings like Christmas and 31st December and New Year parties should be avoided

NEW COVID THREAT

No need to panic, says minister

CONTINUED FROM P1

For his part, Union health minister Harsh Vardhan said there is no need to panic yet.

After Britain admitted the new strain was "out of control" and Prime Minister Boris Johnson imposed a stay-at-home lockdown, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Ireland, Turkey, Israel and Bulgaria announced flight restrictions to the UK. Johnson is scheduled to travel to India for the annual Republic Day parade on January 26.

Aviation regulator DGCA directed all airlines to ensure that passengers travelling from the UK do not board flights from anywhere outside the UK to come to India during the suspension period.

'Mutations expected'

CONTINUED FROM P1

DR Gaurav Sharma, a DST-INSPIRE Faculty Scientist at IBAB, Bengaluru, pointed out that most mutations don't change the virus biology, whereas some can modify the proteins and therefore their biological function, compared to the earlier mutation. "Coronavirus, like the flu and measles viruses, is an RNA virus that is prone to mutate much faster. Researchers say this variant has high transmissibility, 70% more than other known strains. In this case, eight mutations are in the spike (S) protein of the virus, and two are worrisome as they can putatively alter the SARS-CoV-2 biology and its infection patterns," he said.

Dr K Srinath Reddy, a senior member of India's National Task Force on Covid-19, said the vaccines are tested for efficacy on a wide range of existing variants but "we have to be cautious and vigilant".

Call to probe jab rollout

According to senior biologist Seyed Hasnain, it needs to be probed whether the rollout of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in the UK had a role to play in the mutation

Varavara Rao to remain at Nanavati hosp

Mumbai: Jailed poet-activist Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links' case, will continue to remain at Nanavati Hospital in Mumbai till January 7, as the Bombay High Court on Monday extended his stay there. Rao (81) has been receiving treatment at the private hospital since last month.

A bench of Justices S S Shinde and M S Karnik extended his stay at the Nanavati Hospital on Monday after adjourning the hearing on his bail plea, seeking release on medical grounds, till January 7. The bench directed the Maharashtra government to submit a fresh medical report detailing Rao's health condition on the next date of hearing.

Rao's lawyer, Anand Grover, informed the court that the activist's condition was improving. While the Maharashtra government and the NIA urged the court to transfer Rao from Nanavati Hospital to the Taloja prison hospital in neighbouring Navi Mumbai, or the state-run J J Hospital here, the bench said it could not do so without going through his present medical reports. *PTI*

BJP guards BTC flock from poaching

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

AMIDST a court case, 24 elected members of Assam's autonomous Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) were shepherded to Shillong, allegedly by the BJP. The members include nine from BJP, 12 from United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) and one each from Gana Suraksha Party (GSP), Congress, and Bodoland People's Front (BPF). They were lodged at the Assam House in the hill station. After the election results were out, they were kept at a Guwahati hotel for a few days.

UPPL president and the new BTC chief Pramod Bodo made light of the "sojourn" stating that all of them would return to Assam after a couple of days. The general perception is that the BJP is trying to keep them away to thwart possible poaching by the BPF. The BPF ruled the BTC for 17 years ever since its creation in 2003 as a political solution to the Bodo agitation for a separate state. The development comes days after former BTC chief, Hagrama Mohilary, who is also the BPF president, and party colleagues filed a writ petition in the Gauhati HC challenging the constitutional validity of the appointment of council's Chief Executive Member and others on Tuesday.

The petitioners alleged violation of rules under Election Rules, 2004. They contended that since the BPF had emerged as the single largest party by winning 17 of the 40 seats, it should have been invited by the governor to prove its majority.

J&K gears up for local body poll results today

BJP seeks to open its account in Valley

It also remains to be seen whether BJP, which used services of union ministers and senior party leaders during campaigning for party candidates in the District Development Council polls, would be able to retain its hold and grip in Jammu region post Article 370 revocation. The party would also be hoping to open an account in Valley, where it did not win any seats in 2014 Assembly polls. The saffron party had won all its 25 seats in 2014 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls from Jammu region

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

THE counting of votes for the first-ever District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday would decide the shape of future politics in J&K, which was bifurcated into two Union Territories (UTs) on August 5 last year. The counting of votes to decide the fortunes of 2,178 candidates will begin from 9 am at all district headquarters.

The eight-phase polls for 280 DDC seats, which began on November 28 and ended on December 19, was held for first time in J&K. About 51 per cent of the total 57 lakh eligible voters exercised their franchise in the elections.

A day ahead of the DDC election results, BJP national spokesperson Syed Shahnawaz Hussain addressing a press conference in Srinagar | PTI

The DDC polls was the first major electoral exercise in J&K after scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A and bifurcation of J&K state into two UTs on August 5 last year. All the top mainstream leaders, including three former CMs Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, were detained after Article 370 revocation and about a dozen, including three ex-CMs, booked under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). The main contest is between seven-party Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Article 370 restoration and BJP.

The PAGD, which was formed in October this year by NC, PDP, JKPM, Peoples Conference ANC, CPI and CPM to fight for restoration of J&K's special status, had initially decided to stay away from the polls but later contested to prevent a one-sided affair for BJP. If the PAGD, which has got stronghold in Valley, wins big and manages to emerge as single large group in J&K, then the alliance, which has been named as Gupkar Gang by BJP may increase its political activities with higher pitch for restoration of Article 370.

Serpentine queues as web check-in gets scrapped

Kolkata airport doing away with the compulsory web check-in has resulted in long queues at check-in counters. The bureau of civil aviation security had recently informed the airports and the airlines that web check-in, although preferable, was not mandatory, said an official of Kolkata airport. For the manual check-in, a passenger has to pay `100 as processing fee. Problems, according to authorities, started after many first-time fliers started reaching the airport without web check-in; many did not have smartphones too.

PRANAB MONDAL
Our correspondent in West Bengal
pranabm@newindianexpress.com

KOLKATA DIARY

ECI directs State to transfer officials ahead of polls

Gearing up for the Assembly polls slated for the next year, the Election Commission has directed the State to transfer officials posted to their home districts in the past four years. These transfers would be binding on those having spent three years in any district as well. The ECI issued an advisory for the transfer and posting of officers connected with the conduct of the upcoming elections in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry. The term of the Legislative Assembly of Bengal will expire on May 30, 2021. In a letter to the State chief security and chief electoral officer, the ECI advised that the government officers, directly connected with the conduct of elections, must not be posted to their home districts.

IIEST sets conditions for strict invigilation

The Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST) has set a slew of conditions to bring the students taking online semester exams under strict invigilation. The exams at the Shibpur-based institute began on Monday. "During the examination, the cameras on the students' device have to be kept on, and the audio must be off; students shall be proctored by faculty members. Adoption of any unfair means shall be dealt with as per institute rules and practices," read a notice issued by IIEST last week. The audio must be muted so that an examinee does not get to speak to anyone.

Schools await clarity before pre-board schedule

Several schools in Kolkata are either awaiting further clarity before announcing the dates of their pre-board exams or reconsidering the schedule. This comes in the light of the announcement by the ICSE council that board exams for classes X and XII will be on pen-and-paper model; two months of on-campus classes are mandatory prior to the exams. Several school heads said they would prefer to have the rehearsals in schools if they get the go-ahead from the State, and the parents send their children to school. They say if the exam is in the pen-and-paper format, the rehearsals should be in the same way.

$1 million
won by an unemployed Indian man in a raffle draw contest in the UAE

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	2	-6	SNY	Los Angeles	28	10	SNY
Colombo	31	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	9	LC
Dhaka	28	16	SNY	Moscow	-2	-9	SNY
Dubai	26	17	SNY	New York	5	-2	LC
Houston	31	10	SNY	Singapore	33	25	TDS
Istanbul	14	7	LR	Toronto	3	1	LC
London	5	3	LC	Washington	8	0	SNY

Aid for small businesses, schools and more

Months of pain-staking talks in Washington DC has culminated in a $900 billion stimulus package that lawmakers are expected to approve on Monday

THE INITIAL SHOT

The initial $2.2 trillion package passed in March was credited with preventing a much more severe economic downturn

It included huge amounts to rescue American companies, including $377 billion in grants to small businesses to pay workers and rent, $500 billion for loans to larger businesses and states and nearly $600 billion in tax breaks and deferrals

WHAT'S IN THE PACKAGE?

Apart from a temporary $300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a $600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, the package also covers

- **$25 billion** in rental assistance for states
- **$15 billion** for theaters and other live venues
- **$82 billion** for local schools, colleges and universities
- **$10 billion** for child care industry
- **$12 billion** for minority-owned and very small businesses

$1.4 TN GOVT FUNDING PLAN

- The deal combined $900 billion for COVID-19 relief with a $1.4 trillion government-wide funding plan.
- The bill was an engine to carry much of Capitol Hill's unfinished business, including an almost 400-page water resources bill that targets $10 billion for 46 Army Corps of Engineers flood control, environmental and coastal protection projects.

The House will move swiftly to pass this legislation immediately, so it can quickly be sent to the Senate and then to the president's desk for his signature

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House

HOW THEY COMPARE

1st stimulus: $2.2 trillion
2nd stimulus: $900 bn

Big deal after much wrangling

Package includes jobless benefits worth $300 per week, $600 checks for individuals

WASHINGTON

TOP Capitol Hill negotiators sealed a deal Sunday on a $900 billion Covid-19 economic relief package, finally delivering long-overdue help to businesses and individuals and providing money to deliver vaccines to a nation eager for them. The agreementwould establish a temporary $300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a $600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for hard-hit businesses and money for schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction.

It came after months of battling and posturing, but the negotiating dynamic changed in Republicans' favor after the election and as the end of the congressional session neared. President-elect Joe Biden was eager for a deal to deliver long-awaited help to suffering people and a boost to the economy, even though it was less than half the size that Democrats wanted this fall. Biden praised the bipartisan spirit that produced the measure, which he called "just the beginning." "This is a model for the challenging work ahead for our nation," Biden said in a statement.

Nancy Pelosi

House leaders informed lawmakers that they would vote on the legislation on Monday, and the Senate was likely to vote on Monday, too.

"There will be another major rescue package for the American people," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in announcing the agreement for a relief bill that would total almost $900 billion. "It is packed with targeted policies to help struggling Americans who have already waited too long."

Democrats acknowledged it wasn't as robust a relief package as they initially sought — or, they say, the country needs. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi vowed more to come once President-elect Joe Biden takes office. "It is a first step," she said. "We have to do more."

A fight over Federal Reserve emergency powers was resolved Saturday night by the Senate's top Democrat, Chuck Schumer of New York, and conservative Republican Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania. That breakthrough led to a final round of negotiations Sunday. *AP*

New strain spreads to Aus, Italy, Denmark, Netherlands

MELBOURNE

DENMARK, Italy, Gibraltar, the Netherlands, and Australia have reported coronavirus cases involving the new more infectious strain of the virus detected in the UK last week.

Italy reported one case of Covid-19 caused by the new strain in a patient in Rome's Celio military hospital, the health ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Denmark has confirmed nine cases. Its transportation minister said the country is facing a grave situation. Two returnees from the UK were found to carry the new variant of the virus in Australia's New South Wales on Monday. Both Gibraltar and the Netherlands have each reported one case.

Meanwhile, the world scrambled on Monday to contain the new strain, which has delivered a bleak reminder that the pandemic is far from under control even as vaccinations bring a rush of optimism. Apart from India, dozens of countries have banned flights from Britain. France has halted all travel from Britain for 48 hours from midnight, including anyone transporting goods "by road, air, sea or rail".

The ban on everything, but unaccompanied freight comes as companies scramble to shift merchandise across the Channel with days to go until Britain leaves the EU trade bloc.

Germany also halted air links with the UK from midnight, with the ban initially slated to last until December 31. Cargo flights will be exempt.

Passengers wait at Gatwick Airport in West Sussex, England on Sunday | AFP

All passenger flights from Britain to the Netherlands have been banned until January 1. Flights from Britain from midnight were banned for at least 48 hours. The country shares a highly-porous 499-kilometre (310-mile) border with the UK. Italy's Health Minister Roberto Speranza said that he had signed a decree "which blocks flights from Great Britain and prohibits entry into Italy of people who has stayed there during the last 14 days". Anyone in Italy who recently traveled from Britain must be tested, the statement added.

Elsewhere in Europe, Belgium banned flights for 24 hours, Finland barred them for two weeks and Switzerland stopped flights until further notice, with travelers who have arrived from Britain or South Africa — where the new strain has also appeared — ordered into quarantine.

Indians stranded as UK flight ban kicks in

LONDON

MANY Indian students who planned to travel back home to be with their friends and family in India over the Christmas and New Year period are among those caught up in Monday's suspension of all flights to and from the United Kingdom.

While many students would have made travel plans earlier in December after UK universities set up tests to leave the campus processes in place, there are some who are booked on flights in what is one of the busiest travel periods within the UK-India sector. While tourist visas largely remain suspended, those in the UK for family reasons are also among those caught out by the cancellation. "Significant concern is being observed from Indian students both inbound and outbound," said Sanam Arora, Chair of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU-UK).

The UK Home Office had in August offered grace periods for any visa expirations caught up as a result of the lockdown travel disruption.

US charges bombmaker in 1988 Pan Am explosion

WASHINGTON

THE US Justice Department announced charges Monday against a Libyan former intelligence agent who allegedly built the bomb that exploded aboard Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland exactly 32 years ago.

Attorney General Bill Barr said that "Abu Agela Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi" helped build the device that blew up the aircraft — killing 259 people including 190 Americans aboard the US-bound flight, and 11 people on the ground.

The man, more widely known as Abu Agila Mohammad Masud, is currently being held by the Libyan government, Barr told a press conference, voicing confidence he would be handed over to the United States for trial.

"At long last, this man responsible for killing Americans and many others, will be subject to justice for his crimes," Barr told said in a press conference.

US and Scottish investigators have been building a case for years against Masud, alleged to have been a top bombmaker for the late Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi.

The announcement came on the anniversary of the December 21, 1988 bombing, which shattered the aircraft while it flew at 31,000 feet, headed for New York. *AFP*

Oli defends Parl dissolution, says his govt pushed to corner

KATHMANDU

NEPAL'S embattled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Monday defended his move to abruptly dissolve Parliament, saying he was forced to seek a fresh mandate through elections as the rift within the ruling Nepal Communist Party severely affected his government's functioning.

Oli on Sunday sprang a surprise on his rivals and got the President to dissolve Parliament, a controversial move amidst a prolonged tussle for power between him and former premier Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' within the ruling dispensation.

In a special address to the nation, Prime Minister Oli said that he was forced to dissolve Parliament and announce mid-term elections after he learnt about a plan to move a vote of no-confidence against him. "I was forced to seek a fresh mandate through elections as attempts were made against my government, not to allow it to function properly," the prime minister said while defending his decision to dissolve Parliament and announce dates for mid-term elections.

Oli said that the intra-party rift in the ruling Nepal Communist Party severely affected the functioning of his government. "The elected government was pushed to a corner and picketed against and was not allowed to work so I decided to dissolve the house," he said. *PTI*

EXPRESS READ

Russia sends troops

Bangui: The Central African Republic said on Monday that Russia and Rwanda had sent in hundreds of troops after an alleged attempted coup ahead of upcoming elections.

QuoteExpress

IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING
WINSTON CHURCHILL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client have negotiated to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **Smt. Varalakshmamma** W/o. Late.M. N. Nagaraj and her children. If any person/s, Institution, Authority etc., have got any objections or claiming any right, title and interest of what so ever nature on the Schedule Property, are hereby required to communicate the same along with supporting documents to me at my Office within **(10) Ten days** from this day. Otherwise, the Sale transaction will be completed without any reference or regard to any such purported claim or interest, which shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Industrial Converted property bearing Old Sy. No.56, New Sy. No.56/2, measuring about **01 Acre- 05 Guntas**, situated at Malonagathihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, presently within the limits of T.Begur Village Panchayeth having **Katha No.94/297**, with industrial shed measuring about **15000 Sq.feet** with 150 H.P Power and bounded as follows: **EAST BY** : Thyamgondalu Main Road **WEST BY** : Property belonging to G.C. Siddiaha & his children **NORTH BY** : Rehaman sab Property **SOUTH BY** : Thippaiha's Property

Address for Service:-**B.T.PRASANNA KUMAR**, B.Sc. L.L.B. ,ADVOCATE,# 56, **1st** Main Road , 6TH Cross, Sudhamanagar, Bangalore-560027 Ph. 9243118157.

COIMBATORE SMART CITY LIMITED
SMART CITIES MISSION
EXTENSION OF TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. e-2 /Smart City /20-21/SCM **Date : 18.12.2020**

The Managing Director, Coimbatore Smart City Limited, Coimbatore hereby invites Bids through both on-line and off-line from eligible bidders for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimate Amount	Bid Security
1	**Request for Proposal for Selection of System Integrator to Design, Supply, Implement, Operate and Manage an Integrated Command and Control Centre in Coimbatore City**	**Rs.14.11 Crore**	**Rs.15.00 lakh**

The Coimbatore Smart City Limited has already issued a tender notification for the above mentioned work fixing the tender date on **23.12.2020. Due to administrative reasons, the tender date has been postponed to 06.01.2021.**

The bidding documents will be available upto **05.01.2021** and downloaded / uploaded from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** on or before at **15.00** Hours on **05.01.2021** through online. Tender Submission will be closed at **15.00** hours and opened at **16.00** hours **06.01.2021** through offline.

Roc.No :25 /2017/ SCM 1
E-Mail : sejnnurm@ccmc.gov.in or **cbepmcsmartcity@gmail.com**
Off : 0422-2396026 / 0422-2391122

The Managing Director
Coimbatore Smart City Limited,
Coimbatore Corporation Building,
Big Bazaar Street, Town Hall, Coimbatore - 641 001.
Managing Director, Coimbatore Smart City Limited

DIPR / 4814 /TENDER/2020

Office of the Superintendent of Police
Dakshina Kannada District, Mangaluru - 575001
e-mail: aaomag@ksp.gov.in & storesmag@ksp.gov.in Ph.:0824-2225095, 2220503

INVITING RE-TENDERS Date: 19-12-2020

Office of the Superintendent of Police, Dakshina Kannada District, Mangaluru - 575001 hereby invites TENDER Call-2 from the interested bidders for providing Housekeeping Services at the Office of the Superintendent of Police, Dakshina Kannada District, Mangaluru, in two bid format - Technical Bid and Financial Bid.

1. Tender Reference No. : Store/52/DK/2020-21 **2. Last Date for Tender Queries and Clarification:** 24-12-2020 at 11-00 Hrs. **3. Pre Bid Meeting Date, Place and Time:** 28-12-2020 at 11-00 Hrs. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Dakshina Kannada District, Mangaluru. **4. Last Date & Time for submission of Tender :** 21-01-2021 at 05-30 Hrs. **5. Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid:** 22-01-2021 at 11.00 Hrs. **6. Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid:** 25-01-2021 at 11-00 Hrs. **7. EMD Amount:** Rs. 80,000/- **8. Venue of opening of tenders & address for communication :** Office of the Superintendent of Police, Dakshina Kannada District, Mangaluru - 575001.

Sd/-, Superintendent of Police
Dakshina Kannada District, Mangaluru

DIPR/MNG/FW/708/20-21 dt. 21/12/2020

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division
2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross road,
4th 'B' Main road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-40.

No.: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-17/2020-21 Date: 21-12-2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover) (Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites item rate basis tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimate Cost (Rs. in lakhs	EMD (in Rs.)
	Work reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) Category		
1	Additional works to temple at Chamundeshwari temple prayer hall at Kurilingappa Garden, Mudalapalya in Ward No. 127 (Call-2). Indent No. 45792	35.00	35,000/-
	Works reserved for General Category		
2	Improvements to storm water drain in Ward No. 131, Nayandahalli.	10.00	25,000/-
3	Improvements to Adishakthi Maheshwaramma temple in Marenahalli village in Ward No. 125.	10.00	25,000/-
4	Improvements to Palekamma temple in Marenahalli village in Ward No. 125.	10.00	25,000/-
5	Additional construction of Basket ball court in Ward No. 128, Nagarabhavi.	50.00	1,00,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Last Date for uploading the filled proposals: **02.01.2021 upto 4.00 PM. (3)** Date of opening of Financial proposals: **04.01.2021 after 4.00 PM.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
Regional Office #8, Sathyamurthy Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600 031.
Phone : 044-28361120 Fax : 044-28360542; Email : srmtn.fci@nic.in

TENDER NOTICE

The Food Corporation of India invites e-Tenders on "Two-Bid System" for Appointment of Regular Handling and Transport/Internal Transport Contract for movement of food grains and allied materials etc. and vice versa for a period of two years for the following depots:

Name of the Depot	Tender Cost in Rs.	EMD in Rs.	Value of Contract in Rs.
H&T from Peralam Goodshed to FSD Karaikal	590/-	2,17,000/-	1,08,50,000/-
Internal Transport at FSD Peelamedu	590/-	34,000/-	17,00,000/-

Download of tender w.e.f 22.12.2020 - 10.00 AM. Last date for receipt of tenders 11.01.2021 up to 2.00 PM and Opening of Technical Bids at 3.00 PM on 12.01.2021. Detailed Tender Notice and Bid document shall be seen and / or downloaded from website **www.fci.gov.in** and **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** and payment of cost of tender and EMD by RTGS/NEFT.

GENERAL MANAGER (TN)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISON, BHAWANIPATNA.
e-mail: eerwsskld@gmail.com, eerwss_kld@nic.in, Phone No: 06670-230784

INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e - TENDERING

O-766: **Bid Identification No- 28/EE/R WSS/ 2020-21 /Bpt Dated.17.12.2020**

01.Name of the work :- As per ANNEXURE - A

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only. From	To	Date of opening (Technical Bid)
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	28/EE/ RWSS/2020-21/Bpt Dated- 17.12.2020	24.12.2020 10.00 AM	07.01.2021 05.30 PM	08.01.2021 10.00 AM onwards

Cost of tender paper & payment of EMD to be made online payment system. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **http://tenderodisha.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna

OIPR 25005/11/0010/2021

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING

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CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMZAD PASHA MUNEER** aged about 35 Years S/o **Muneer**, R/at No.63, 7th Cross, Kalpataru Layout, Kowdenahalli Ramamurthynagar, Bangalore-560016 have changed my name to **AMJAD KHAN MUNEER** vide affidavit dated:21/12/2020 Before Notary **A.Gerard** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SHAJAHAN, S/o. Krishnan, residing at No. 61, 3rd Main Road, Mohan Kumar Nagar, Bengaluru-560054, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) YASH NARAYANA** vide affidavit Dated 25/11/2020 sworn before Notary Kundan Babu.M, Bangalore.

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, Army No: 8036127L, Rank: HAV, Name: JAIPAL SINGH, Presently working at Unit Pioneer Corps Training Center, Adm Coy, Agram Post, Bengaluru -560007, Karnataka, India. I state that in my service record my wife's name is wrongly mentioned as **BHOOL KNWAR** instead of her correct name is **BHOOL KANWAR,** vide affidavit dated 21.12.2020 before notary K V MANI, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **APARNA JOSHI,** D/o late Anant Govind Jamnerkar, W/o Wgcdr Anand Joshi, presently R/at No. 47, 2nd floor, Surveyor Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **APARNA JOSHI** to **APARNA ANAND JOSHI**, and both names **APARNA JOSHI** and **APARNA ANAND JOSHI** are one and the same and belongs to me only, hereafter I shall be known and called as **APARNA ANAND JOSHI** only, vide affidavit dated 21.12.2020, sworn before Advocate & Notary **D.K. RAMESHAPPA**, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SERVICE NO. JC 310803Y SUB D.Karunananda Unit: GE (AF) Naliya No. 1, PIN:900470, C/o 56 APO, have changed my Son name from **D.YASASWI** to **DASARI YASASWI NANDA** vide affidavit Dated 18/12/2020 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **LAKSHMI @ LAKSHMI .R**, D/o. Sri. Srimushnam Radhakrishna, Hindu, aged about 20 years, residing at No.443, F-Cross, Near Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru - 560 098 have changed my name to **LAKSHMI RADHAKRISHNA** vide. Notarized Affidavit dated 18/12/2020, sworn-to before Sri. P.N.Nagesha, Advocate and Notary (Reg No.12410), Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **BALAKRISHNA .B.S**, Residing at No. 252, 2nd G Main Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, 11th Block, Bengaluru-2, have changed the name of my minor daughter from **BANDHAVYA KRISHNAN .B** to **BANDHAVYA KRISHNA .B**, vide affidavit dated 21.12.2020, before Notary **N. NAGAPPA,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ASHA BYAKOD, Spouse of No. 16112390X HAV Pandurang Mangi, residing at Post:Jaganur, Taluk:Chikkodi, Dist:Belagavi, State:Karnataka, PIN:591305, have changed my name from **ASHA BYAKOD** to **ASHA MANGI** vide affidavit Dated 18/12/2020 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SINDHU GOVINDRAJ** W/o Sridhar Srinivasan Iyengar, aged about 32 years, resident of No.32,Vishwas Apartments 5th cross,main,11thCross,Malleshwaram, Bangalore- 560 003 have changed my name to **SINDHU SRIDHAR IYENGAR**Vide affidavit dated **21-12-2020** sworn before notary B.R. Shashikala

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SYED SADIQ PASHA**, R/at No.16, 1st Floor, Vijinapura Main road, Above Channakeshava Medical, Doorvaninagar, Bangalore-16, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHADIQPASHA SHAFFIULLA** to **SYED SADIQ PASHA**, hereafter I shall be known and called as **SYED SADIQ PASHA** only, vide affidavit dated 21.12.2020, sworn before Advocate & Notary **R. BASAVARAJA**, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) BHARAJWAL NEHA SURESH, W/o. Aakash Panchariya, D/o Suresh Bharajwal, residing at No. 141, 4th Main, SBM Colony, Anand Nagar, Bengaluru-560024, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) BHARAJWAL NEHA SURESH** to **(NEW NAME) NEHA AAKASH PANCHARIYA** vide affidavit Dated 21/12/2020 sworn before Notary H.L.Ananthaswamy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
NEW NAME: **DAKSHA BULSARIA**, OLD NAME: **DAKSHA**, HUSBAND NAME: ASHOK BULSARIA, DOB: 21/05/1960, POB: BOMBAY, ADDRESS: FLAT NO. D13, PNB2, ARMY WELFARE HOUSING ORG, SANDEEVIHAR, KANNAMANGALA, KADUGODI POST, WHITEFIELD, BANGALORE - 560067

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MOHAMMED ALLUDDIN**, R/at No.No.251, 1st Cross, Akbari Masjid Road, Chamundi Nagar, Bangalore-32, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ALLAUDDIN SHAMSU** to **MOHAMMED ALLUDDIN**, hereafter I shall be known and called as **MOHAMMED ALLUDDIN** only, vide affidavit dated 21.12.2020, sworn before Advocate & Notary **R. BASAVARAJA**, Bangalore.

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, Army No: 14654133X, Rank: HAV, Name: MANOJ KUMAR, Presently working at Unit 515, Army Base Workshop, Ulsuru Post, Ulsuru, Bengaluru-560006, Karnataka, India. I state that in my service record my wife's name is wrongly mentioned as **SARDA DEVI** instead of her correct name is **SHARDA DEVI,** her **DOB is 04.01.1984** vide affidavit dated 21.12.2020 before notary K V MANI, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
NEW NAME: **ASHOK BULSARIA**, OLD NAME: **ASHOK KUMAR NATVERLAL**, FATHER NAME: BHAGAWANDAS, DOB: 24/11/1958, POB: BANGALORE, ADDRESS: FLAT NO. D13, PNB2, ARMY WELFARE HOUSING ORG, SANDEEVIHAR, KANNAMANGALA, KADUGODI POST, WHITEFIELD, BANGALORE - 560067

Imposition of basic customs duty

Industry body CII has also urged the Ministry of Finance in its memorandum submitted on Monday to impose the basic custom duty on solar equipment as announced in the last general budget, stressing that the delay in implementation is impacting investments.

India Inc suggests bringing power under GST ambit

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INCREASED allocation on healthcare, higher spending on public infrastructure, and bringing power under the ambit of Goods and Services Tax (GST) remain some of the key expectations of the infrastructure and energy sectors from the upcoming budget.

"Create fiscal space for public spending up to 1 per cent of GDP for investment in infrastructure projects in areas such as road, rail, ports, airports, waterways, urban infrastructure, industrial parks, freight corridors," industry chamber Confederation of Indian industry (CII) said in its pre budget consultation with the finance minister. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday met experts in infrastructure, energy and climate change.

Representatives of power sectors demanded to bring power under the ambit of GST. "Bringing power under the ambit of GST – This has been requested through our pre-budget recommendations for several years. It is proposed that the electrical energy may be brought to the GST net with lower rate of GST or keeping it exempt from GST, refund of input credit should be given to the generating/transmission/distribution utility. This is a pending decision from the government," CII said, while submitting its suggestions.

While increasing healthcare infrastructure budget was a common request, the industry also asked the government to put aside fiscal considerations this year when considering its expenditure.

Other requests from the captains of India Inc included special focus on low cost housing, increased allocation under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, special funds for the National Building Construction Corporation to complete stalled projects, incentivise social rental housing and fast-track the implementation of the National Urban Rental Housing Policy (NURHP).

Regulators to decide on Amazon's objections to Future Retail-RIL deal

The Delhi Court, however, ruled that the proposed sale is in accordance with Indian laws

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE fate of the ₹24,713 crore deal between Future Retail and Reliance Industries hangs in balance after the Delhi High Court on Monday allowed Amazon to continue opposing the transaction mainly on the basis of the arbitration award against the proposed asset sale, but left it to local regulators to take the final call on the deal.

While the antitrust watchdog Competition Commission of India already cleared the transaction in November, fresh battle lines are now expected to be drawn before market regulator Securities and Exchanges Board of India (Sebi) and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs where the American e-commerce giant is currently challenging the deal.

Amazon is locked in a legal tussle with the Kishore Biyani-led Future Group, which in August sold its sprawling retail asset to Mukesh Ambani's conglomerate and was seeking an ad-interim injunction to restrain the e-commerce giant from writing to statutory regulators, raise concerns over - and halt - the deal between the two Indian giants. The court ruled that Amazon cannot be barred from writing to regulators or any other statutory authorities due to "potentially irreparable damage". The regulators will now either clear the deal in accordance with the law after its preliminary review or it can open an investigation if it has serious concerns.

The acquisition of Future's assets would give Asia's richest man an unparalleled edge over peers —an advantage Amazon is not willing to cede. For the insolvent Future Group, which is sitting on a debt pile of over ₹12,000 crore, the asset sale is crucial to restore normalcy.

The court, however, also observed that the lawsuit filed by Future Retail, a unit of Future Group, was maintainable and its attempt to seek approval of the transaction with Reliance Industries was also valid.

The Jeff Bezos-led e-tailer has been arguing that it has bought a 49 per cent stake in Future Coupons, one of Future's unlisted firms last year. As part of the deal, Future can not sell its assets to certain parties, including Mukesh Ambani Group of companies.

However, the American e-tailer has suffered a setback with the high court ruling that its investment into the Future Group required government approval and by not securing it violated India's foreign exchange and investment laws. ".. the 'control' that is sought to be asserted by Amazon on FRL is not permitted under the FEMA, FDI Rules," the court stated.

Job losses, bankruptcy

Senior lawyer Harish Salve, representing Future Retail, had earlier said that Amazon is trying to "sink the ship" and if the assets are not liquidated now, thousands will end up losing jobs overnight and Future may go bankrupt.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹358

Target Price ₹440

GUJARAT GAS

GUJGA's gas sales volume showed robust recovery post the lockdown; currently total gas volumes stand at 10.5mmscmd. We believe that current volumes would serve as a robust base for the company and GUJGA could see a major volume boost of ~10-12% CAGR over the medium term. We reiterate GUJGA as our top Buy, with best RoE profile of ~24-26% and expected FCF generation of ~INR27.8b over next 2 years

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*

INFLOWS

At $8.1 bn, FPI infusion highest in 12 years

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FOREIGN portfolio investors (FPIs) infused a record $8.1 billion in November—the highest in 12 years—said Bank of America Securities (BofA Securities) in a report on Monday. FPIs own more than 24 per cent of the domestic market and have pumped in $5 billion in December so far which is also "exceptionally strong", the report added. India has received the highest FPI inflows among the emerging market peers in November as Brazil got only $6.2 billion, South Korea ($ 5.2 billion), Taiwan ($4.5 billion) and Thailand at $ 1.1 billion.

BofA added that the fund inflows were driven by active funds. FPIs parked their maximum funds in financials at $4 billion, followed by discretionary stocks at $ 854 million and industrials at $ 687 million and had the least interest in it where they picked up on stocks worth $104 million and real estate wherein they pulled out $58 million.

A potential return of loan growth can act as a trigger for well-run and well-capitalized private sector financial stocks like HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and HDFC to outperform. The brokerage is also overweight on industrials and materials sectors where it sees scope for further FII repositioning on improving traction on government's capex push.

In contrast to robust Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) flows, domestic flows remained at negative $2 billion. While active funds continued to see net outflows of $2.1 billion for the fifth month in a row in November, passive funds improved by 116 per cent month-on-month to $ 57 million, as against -$ 351 million in October.

Tata Motors to increase CV prices from January

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TATA Motors on Monday announced price increases across its commercial vehicle range —medium and heavy commercial vehicles, intermediate and light commercial vehicles, small commercial vehicles as well as buses — effective January 1, 2021. The steady rise in material and other input costs, impact of forex and transition to BS-VI norms, have cumulatively increased the cost of manufacturing vehicles, necessitating a price revision to partially offset the impact, the company said.

"There will be a price increase across Tata Motors commercial vehicle range, effective January 01, 2021," the company said in a statement. The actual change in price will depend on individual model, variant and fuel type. Tata Motors had thus far been absorbing the addition in costs. However, the move comes at a time when early every automaker has announced a price hike to offset the input costs.

Fitch Ratings had said on Thursday that automakers' plans to pass on higher commodity prices will dim the prospects for a demand recovery after December when the boost in some categories from pent-up demand and festive spending fades. Tata Motors' total commercial vehicle sales (including exports) declined 9 per cent to 27,982 units in November 2020 as against 30,588 units sold last year in November.

Gas, petrol demand boost India's refinery utilisation

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA's oil and gas refineries have shrugged off their summer lows, with several hitting maximum, or close to maximum, capacity utilisation over the past few weeks, according to industry reports and preliminary market data.

According to sources, an oil ministry survey made at the end of November indicated that the average capacity utilisation of all types of refineries reached 87 per cent during October. While last month saw fuel demand around 3.3 per cent lower than November 2019, market data for the first two weeks of December indicate that India's petrol and LPG sales are around 10 per cent higher than the previous year. This trend is likely to further push capacity utilisations.

Headwinds include the still-lagging demand for diesel, with demand during the first two weeks of December around 5 per cent lower than the previous year. According to a report from S&P, India's top refiners have begun operating close to 100 per cent in November. The country's largest refiner Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), for instance, has been running at full capacity since the first two weeks of November, while Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd has hit 90 per cent capacity utilisation after South Indian retail markets began chugging along during the festive season. BPCL's Kochi and Mumbai capacities are also at top capacity as are HPCL's, while the CPCL refinery is running at 95 per cent. "The high refinery utilisations are because of an increasing trend of personal transport. Post the Covid outbreak, more people have begun using personal transport, mostly petrol-driven. Public transport and freight have seen the opposite effect, which is why diesel is lagging. Gas demand, like LPG and CNG, have also risen," said a senior OMC executive.

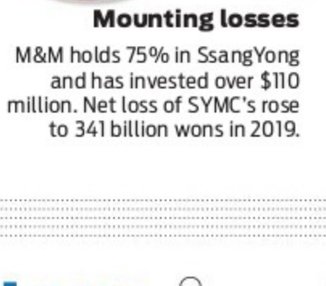
Mahindra's Korean arm SsangYong files for bankruptcy, loans go unpaid

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

HOMEGROWN auto major Mahindra & Mahindra's South Korean unit SsangYong Motor Company(SYMC) has filed for bankruptcy. This development comes a week after the loss making entity failed to repay loans worth 60 billion Korean won (around ₹408 crore) by December 14, taking the total outstanding loan to ₹680 crore or 100 billion won.

"SYMC has today intimated to the Korean Stock Exchange, about filing an application for commencement of rehabilitation procedure with the Seoul Bankruptcy Court under the Debtor Rehabilitation and Bankruptcy Act of South Korea. SYMC has also applied for an Autonomous Restructuring Support (ARS) program which is a court designed process," said M&M in a regulatory filing on Monday. If the Court approves the ARS, SYMC will continue to function under the supervision of its Board and will negotiate with stakeholders to reach an understanding about a revival package which may include equity and debt financing and other related actions. However, some of its decisions will be subject to Court approval.

The Seoul Bankruptcy Court will deliberate and review the application and relevant documents submitted by SYMC to determine whether or not the Court will commence the restructuring process of SYMC, the automaker said in a statement.



SYMC intimated to the Korean Stock Exchange, about filing an application for commencement of rehabilitation procedure with the Seoul Court

Mahindra & Mahindra

Mounting losses

M&M holds 75% in SsangYong and has invested over $110 million. Net loss of SYMC's rose to 341 billion wons in 2019.

EXPRESS READ

FinMin transfers ₹6K cr to 23 states, 3 UTs

New Delhi: Finance Ministry on Monday released the eighth weekly instalment of ₹6,000 crore to 23 states and three Union Territories to meet the GST compensation shortfall, taking the total amount released so far under this window to ₹48,000 crore. The remaining five states — Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim do not have a gap in revenue on account of GST implementation,

Sandvik enforces patent rights in India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has ruled in favour of Sandvik regarding patent infringement concerning its Vertical Shaft Impact crusher. Following another investigation into infringement of patents for Sandvik down the hole hammers (Mission 4), two companies based in Hyderabad were found to be selling copies of the Mission 4 hammers. Later, cease and desist notices were issued to both the entities.

Pinelabs hits $2 billion with fresh fundraise

Bengaluru: Merchants commerce platform, Pine labs has raised fresh funds from US hedge fund LonePine capital at a $2 billion valuation, making it India's third fintech start-up after Phone Pe and Paytm to achieve the feat. This is the second investment in Pinelabs which had raised funds from Mastercard in January at a $1 billion valuation. Pine Labs serves more than 150,000 merchants in 3,700 cities across Asia and the Middle East.

Canada's PSP, USA's DFC, Axis Bank invest $107 mn in NIIF's master fund

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) on Monday announced a slew of investments by bigshots such as the Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investments) of Canada, US federal government's International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and Indian lender Axis Bank and a rupee equivalent size $2.34 billion.

The NIIF, set up by the government to channelise investments into its ambitious pipeline of over ₹1 lakh crore worth of infrastructure projects, said these investments were worth about $107 million. It also marks the fifth and Final Close of the Master Fund, NIIF said. The master fund is India's largest domestic infrastructure equity fund. The NIIF also announced that it is now targeting to raise $ 2.1 billion for a private equity fund. The master fund invests in operating assets in core infrastructure sectors, primarily transportation and energy, according to a statement.

While Axis Bank was already invested with NIIF, Canada's PSP Investments and DFC are the new entrants. Other investors in the master fund include Government of India, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), Australian-Super, CPP Investments, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, Temasek, HDFC Group, ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance. International investors have rights to co-invest an additional $3 billion alongside the fund.

Business & Beyond

Indian Oil's lubricant blending plant inaugurated

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Dhamendra Pradhan on Monday inaugurated Indian Oil's Lube Blending Plant in Kolkata in the presence of IndianOil Chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya. The new plant is a step towards making India self reliant in its lubricants requirement. With an investment of ₹142 crore, this project generated a total of 72,000 man days. "Not only will this project meet requirements of the ever changing industrial domain, but will also ensure quality products creation with the help of its NABL accredited laboratory and top notch product evaluation techniques," the company said in a release.

ONGC commences oil production in Bengal Basin

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) has started oil production from the Asokenagar-1 well, Bengal Basin in West Bengal's 24 Paragana district. With this development, Bengal Basin has joined the ranks of Krishna-Godavari, Mumbai Offshore, Assam Shelf, Rajasthan, Cauvery, Assam-Arakan Fold Belt and Cambay. The public sector energy major said that Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday dedicated Bengal Basin, the eight producing basins of India to the nation. Pradhan said that the discovery would play a role for India's energy security and would definitely add to the government's commitment towards reducing oil import dependence.

Bank of Baroda signs MoU with defence forces

Public sector lender Bank of Baroda has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard under which the bank would offer customised services along with a host of facilities to account holders. The bank has also renewed its existing MoU with the Indian Army to offer specially customised banking services through 'Baroda Military Salary Package'. These services will be offered through the bank's network of over 8,200 branches and about 20,000 business correspondent touch points.

SBI Bhubaneswar hands over 101 sanction letters

The local head office of State Bank of India (SBI) in Bhubaneswar has organised a sensitization programme for officers dealing with MSME loans. The programme was inaugurated by Satyabrata Sahu, Principal Secretary, MSME Dept., Govt. of Odisha. While handing over 101 sanction letters to the beneficiaries of Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, Sahu said SBI has contributed immensely in providing credit facilities under various govt schemes. He also inaugurated SME Branch at Rayagada.

SER excels in rolling stock maintenance

Since the nationwide lockdown in the wake of covid-19 and different unlock periods, South Eastern Railway (SER) has been boosting up its network for maintenance of rolling stock stabled in workshops, car sheds and at different yards in its jurisdiction. Regular examining of rolling stock — luggage vans, coaches, etc is being done.

Detailed inspection at JSPL's Coke Oven Unit

Joining the Directorate of Factories & Boilers, Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) has developed Advance Action in Industries to Abate Accidents (AAINAA) at its Coke Oven Plant in Angul, Odisha. This was inaugurated recently by AK Naik, Dy. Director of Factories & Boilers, Angul during his visit to the Plant. Naik also conducted a detailed inspection of the steel Plant as part of Central Inspection Coordination Group, Odisha activity. He appreciated the JSPL's effort in building a safety culture in the plant.

Kallis named England batting consultant for Lanka tour

South African legend Jacques Kallis was appointed as the batting consultant of England for next month's two-match Test tour of Sri Lanka. "Former South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis joins the England set-up for the first time as batting coaching consultant," the ECB said. It is not yet known if his appointment will extend to the tour of India beginning February next year.

TWO TESTS AT MCG A POSSIBILITY

Fresh Covid-19 outbreak in New South Wales likely to shift third match from Sydney

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

In the wake of the recent Covid-19 outbreak in Sydney, Melbourne — which is hosting the Boxing Day Test — has emerged as a likely venue for the third Test as well. The fourth match will go ahead as per schedule in Brisbane. It is understood that the Indian team, which reaches Melbourne on Tuesday, has already been informed about the potential change in plans. A confirmation is expected soon.

The recent outbreak in New South Wales has led to Cricket Australia (CA) making contingency plans and it is understood that the BCCI was apprised of the situation on Monday. With NSW imposing restrictions in movement, CA even airlifted opener David Warner and pacer Sean Abbott from Sydney last Saturday and took them to Melbourne, where they will join the rest of their teammates ahead of the second Test.

According to BCCI sources, under the prevailing circumstances, the CA believes it won't be safe to go ahead with the Test in Sydney, which is scheduled to start on January 7. Even though the BCCI was told initially that a call on Sydney would be taken later, as the Test is still two weeks away, things seem to have changed drastically in the last 24 hours. Initially, there were talks of swapping the Brisbane and Sydney Tests, but even that seems to have changed as there is no guarantee that the situation would improve by then.

Moreover, even if the Test takes place at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the possibility of playing in front of empty stands is high. As a result, Melbourne could host back-to-back Tests. "The CA feels Melbourne is a safe option under the circumstances because the safety of players and staff is paramount. They are in regular touch with the BCCI and the venue should be finalised soon," a board official told this newspaper.

If it happens, it will be a huge turnaround for Melbourne, as before the tour began there were concerns about playing the Boxing Day Test in the city. Back then, the state of Victoria was severely affected by Covid-19 and CA was even looking at Sydney and Adelaide as potential venues to host the Boxing Day Test.

The shift in venues is something the Indian team won't mind, as the pitch at Melbourne Cricket Ground has been on the slower side in recent years. It could also open to the door to play two spinners. The last time India played at MCG in 2018, they won by 137 runs.

ROHIT'S PARTICIPATION IN DOUBT

The current situation also puts a question mark over Rohit Sharma's participation in the third Test. He is undergoing quarantine in Sydney since December 16. That will end on December 30. With other states in Australia closing their borders with NSW, it remains to be seen how and when Rohit can join his teammates in Melbourne.

Will BCCI discuss conflict issue at AGM?

ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY @Chennai

THERE are murmurs in the BCCI corridors that its president Sourav Ganguly has entered into several endorsement deals that amount to conflict of interest. At least two brands he is associated with are direct rivals of the BCCI's own sponsors. But it remains to be seen if the matter is discussed at the annual general meeting on December 24.

Going strictly by the letter of the law, the deals Ganguly has got into may not be illegal. And it's likely that he has taken legal opinion before signing up. The question that arises is more about ethics than legalities. At this point in time, not many state associations seem keen to question if what the president is doing crosses ethical lines.

"He (Ganguly) is smart enough and I'm sure he took legal advice before deciding to enter into an agreement with these companies. More importantly, the general body of BCCI can discuss this if somebody raises the point but it can't take a decision on this. Only the obmudsman can decide if there is conflict of interest or not. Our association will not question this," said the official of a state association.

Some other associations this newspaper spoke to also said they would not be raising this point at the AGM. Rather, they would like to know about distribution of funds. "We will request the BCCI for a schedule of when funds will be released. This will help us plan better," said the secretary of another state association. However, there are 34 state associations and it cannot be ascertained if any one is planning to ask questions about Ganguly.

This does not mean that all associations think Ganguly's endorsements or business associations are above questioning. But they are not willing to go public with their opinion. At least two units said they do not want to ruffle feathers and get into trouble.

"Whether Ganguly's business deals violate conflict of interest rules is secondary. The BCCI president's position is such that there should be no room for such talks. Going by rules, his association with JSW (Ganguly is brand ambassador of JSW Cement. JSW owns IPL franchise Delhi Capitals) could be a violation of rules. But then, we are not going to say this at the AGM," said the head of another association.

ATKMB hand Bengaluru first defeat of season

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

ATK Mohun Bagan came up with an all-round performance to hand Bengaluru FC their first defeat in this season of the ISL, at Fatorda Stadium on Monday. David Williams' first-half strike proved to be the difference between the sides as the Kolkata club secured their fifth win in seven matches to remain in second place. Bengaluru lie third.

ATK Mohun Bagan adopted a different style, early on. Previously, they were happy to sit back, but on Monday they took the game to Bengaluru, who were not allowed much space.

Mohun Bagan looked sharper. Their opponents were giving the ball away. The Mariners threatened to score moving forward. In Williams, Roy Krishna and Manvir Singh, they had runners up front and the trio created problems for the Bengaluru defenders.

Mohun Bagan took lead with Williams sending a wonderful curler into the top right corner in the 33rd minute. They deserved the lead for the kind of domination they enjoyed until then. The problem for Bengaluru was their inability to penetrate in the final third.

If they had to take anything out of the contest, Bengaluru had to up their game. They brought in Suresh Wangjam for Udanta Singh in the second half. It nearly worked as Suresh squared a ball to Cleiton Silva, who failed to score from close in the 73rd minute. It was their best chance to draw level. However, one has to applaud Mohun Bagan, who were a better side during the contest.

Shuttlers back in action at Thai Open

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

EVEN as India's elite sportspersons in other disciplines have got back to the field amid the pandemic, its badminton stars were left frustrated. The tour started, had one tournament and promptly shut down again. The national camp in Hyderabad too had initial hiccups. It's been a period of waiting. That will end in the first week of January as an eight-member team, led by PV Sindhu, will leave for Thailand to take part in the first of two Thailand Opens from January 12.

"We will leave India on January 3," said doubles specialist N Sikki Reddy. "Looking forward to it as we have gone a long time without playing a competition." As always, she will team up with Ashwini Ponappa. Even if they are India's leading women's doubles team, their results haven't always been on the right side. She is hoping that 2021 will see a change in fortune. "Ashwini has been in Hyderabad for the last month, after a long time we have practised together. We need to begin 2021 in a positive frame of mind."

It's likely that the team will be allowed to train even during quarantine before playing their first tournament. The next tournament — beginning on January 19 — is likely to be with fans.

Another player excited to just get back on court is Chirag Shetty, one half of the men's doubles team. However, Chirag, who recently returned to Hyderabad after spending almost the entirety of lockdown in Mumbai, is of the opinion that he doesn't envisage any problems training with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy after such a long time.

Sindhu to travel directly

Sindhu, who is training in the UK, will leave for Thailand directly from the country. The Olympic silver medallist, who had left for an initial eight-week stint to work on specifics like diet and nutrition at the Gatorade Sports Science Institute in Leicester, will head to Bangkok directly. Hopefully, the recent ban on flights t0 and from the UK because of new virus strain by a lot of countries, including India (from Dec 22 midnight), will not affect her travel plans.

Squads

Men: B Sai Praneeth, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty.

Women: PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Ashwini Ponappa, N Sikki Reddy.

EXPRESS READ

Uthappa powers Vijaya CC to victory

BENGALURU: Robin Uthappa scored 52-ball 99 to help Vijaya Cricket Club beat Dooravani Cricketers (1) by 128 runs in the KSCA T20 tournament. Besides, Sri Krishna and Shivaraj S also scored respective half-centuries to manage 221/2 in 20 overs. Dooravani, in reply, were 93/7 from 20 overs.

India men 4th in FIH rankings, women 9th

LAUSANNE: The Indian men and women hockey teams will finish 2020 in fourth and ninth positions, respectively. The International Hockey Federation on Monday confirmed that the Belgium men's team and the Netherlands' women's side will finish the year at the top.

Office of the Executive Engineer, BBSR (R&B) Division No.IV, BBSR

No. 5770 /Dated, Bhubaneswar, the 11.12.2020

CANCELLATION OF RFP NO-01 / 2020-21
Bid Identification No. C.C. (R&B) - 04

B-539: Due to **NON-RESPONSIVE of RFP-01 of 2020-21** for the work **"Preparation of Structural Safety Audit Report for Odisha Bhawan, Odisha Niwas & Odisha Sadan, New Delhi for the year 2020-21"**, the RFP invited by this office vide RFP Notice No.01 of 2020-21 is hereby cancelled and fresh RFP will be invited in due course.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
BBSR(R&B) Division No-IV Bhubaneswar
OIPR 34090/11/0016/2021

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 69/2020-21/KWA/PHC/D4/TVM(RT1). AMRUT Project - Laying Transmission main and Sewer Networks in Block L Edathara - Collection and conveyance system - Sewer network in Edathara L Block-Supplying and Laying Sewer line from Pettah Venpalavattom road, Greenpark residential area and side of Amayizhanchan thode and to the MH7 of Edathara zone. EMD : Rs. 100000. Tender fee : Rs. 7500. Last Date for submitting Tender : 13-01-2021 03:00:pm. Phone : 04712322303. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram
KWA-JB-GL-6-659-2020-21

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice

Tender No : Retender No. 93-115/SE/PHC/TSR/2020-21. JJM - Thrissur District - various Panchayaths - providing FHTCs rural households and allied works. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 16800. Last Date for submitting Tender : 05-01-2021 03:00:pm. Phone : 04872423230. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Thrissur
KWA-JB-GL-6-652-2020-21

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA,
HIGH COURT BUILDINGS, BENGALURU-560001.
No: HCC/54/2020 Date: 17.12.2020

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka High Court has decided to Procure 7No's of KIOSKS for its subordinate courts and Tender for this has been invited through e-procurement. Those interested can upload the tender within **4.00 pm on 19.01.2021.** Further details can be obtained through website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- (T.G. SHIVASHANKARE GOWDA)
REGISTRAR (ADMINISTRATION) &
TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY,
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU
DIPR/DDU/50/MCA/20-21

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(MAHATHMA GANDHI HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No.: KPCL/2020-21/PS/WORK_INDENT10649 Date: 19.12.2020

ABSTRACT "e" TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal Only)

Bids in two covers are invited for the work of **"LED illumination of Control Room and LTAC Room at MGHE power house, Jogfalls-577435, Shivamogga Dist., Karnataka"** from a regular manufacturer / authorised distributor and shall have proven experience in the field of supply & installation of LED luminaries to power houses / reputed organizations as specified in the Pre-qualifying requirement in 'e' tender notification. Tenders must be electronically submitted (online through internet) within the due date & time published in e-Procurement portal. EMD: Rs. 5,460/- and tender processing fee should be paid online through e-Procurement portal. Last date & time for online submission of tenders : **04.01.2021 upto 16.00 hrs.** Date & time for opening of Technical bid: **05.01.2021 at 16.30 hrs.** Further information if required can be obtained from the **Office of the Executive Engineer(EM&O), MGHE Works, KPCL, Jogfalls - 577435, Sagar Tq., Shivamogga Dist. Karnataka. Mob: 9449598853 or HP Helpdesk No. 080-23010900 or 23010901.**

Karnataka State
Office of the Engineer, Shimoga Division, Shimoga
No.EE/PWD/Smg/JE-2/IFT-28/2020-21 Dtd:18-12-2020

Short Term Tender Notification

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-3 & Class-4 above Contractors. For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-23010900 / 080-23010901)

3054 SH : 1. Hosanagara Tq. 1 work. **2.** Shikaripura Tq. 1 work. **3054 MDR : 3.** Sagara Tq. 3 work. **3054 MDR Culvert : 4.** Shikaripura Tq. 1 work. **5054-04-337-0-01-133 : 5.** Soraba Tq. 1 work. **4059 Department Buildings : 6** Soraba Tq. 1 work

Tender documents down loading & submission dates : Dtd: 23-12-2020 to 02-01-2021 Period for completion of works : 3 Months (Including Monsoon).

Sd/-EE, PWDept, Shimoga Division, Shimoga
DIPR/smg/No.53/12/mca/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2020-21/5059 DATE: 19/12/2020

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 3054-03-337-0-05-200 SH Maintenance (Flood) & 1 work under head of account 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintenance Improvements (Flood), Totally 2 Works, Amount put to tender is Rs. 87.72 Lakhs for each work.

Calendar of events:
1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 29-12-2020 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 31-12-2020 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 02-01-2021 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System):"after approval of Technical bids"

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikkodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-982/MCA/2020-21

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, DHARWAD
Sir M. Visvesvaraya Road, Jalamandali Compound, Dharwad - 580 001. Karnataka. Ph No: 0836-2447090, Fax : 0836-2446890, E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Pre-qualification tender with Joint venture for the following works are invited through e-Procurement portal from eligible Agency/Contractors:
No. KWB / CE(D) / SGEE (BGM) / DCE-1 / TA-1 / AE-1 / TND / 2020-21/1459 Date: 19-12-2020
Package No. WU - Bailhongal WSS. **Name and description of work:** Providing 24x7 distribution network in Bailhongal town including improvements to bulk water supply scheme to Bailhongal town (For details please refer e-Procurement Portal). **Tender processing fee (Rs.):** As per e-Procurement Portal. **Period of completion including monsoon (months):** 24 Months.
(1) The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Part A and Part B of PITA to qualify for pre-qualification tender. (2) The details regarding participation in e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and also from the office of the Undersigned during office hours. (3) The aspiring Contractors, who have not obtained the user ID & Password for participating in e-Procurement, may now obtain the same by requesting e-Procurement Cell Centre at e-Governance Department, Room No. 141, Gate No. 2, M.S.Building, Bengaluru, Phone No. 25501216/25501227, email support: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. (4) Registration in the Board is not mandatory to apply for the above work. (5) Right to accept or reject the tender rests with the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D. Board, Dharwad.
Calendar of Events:- (1) Period of sale of document in e-procurement portal: **From: 24-12-2020 to 25-01-2021. (2)** Last date and time for seeking clarifications of PQ applications: **07-01-2021 upto 11.00 Hours. (3)** Date and time of Pre bid meeting : **07-01-2021 at 11.00 Hours. (4)** Last date and time for sale of PQ document in the e-procurement portal: **25-01-2021 upto 17.00 Hours. (5)** Last date and time for receipt of PQ applications: **25-01-2021 upto 17.30 Hours. (6)** Date and time of opening of the PQ applications: **28-01-2021 after 11.00 Hours.**
For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Dharwad, may please be contacted.

Sd/- (K.V. Srikeshava),
CHIEF ENGINEER
KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.
DIPR/Dwd/ShirdiSai/553/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

QuoteExpress KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STARS, AND YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND > THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Govt. of Karnataka
Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
K.R. Road, Fort, Bengaluru - 560 002. Tel: 080-26700810, Telefax: 080-26704342
Email: director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in / director_dean@bmcri.org Website: www.bmcri.org

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No. & Date	Details	Schedule
1	BMCRI/Sup(2)/27/ 2019-20, Dated:19/12/2020	e-Tenders are invited for the purchase of Additional Medical Equipments which are required for the State Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (V.R.D.L) in the Department of Microbiology, BMC&RI.	(1) Commencement date for uploading of tenders: **21.12.2020.** (2) Pre bid Meeting dated : **29.12.2020 at 11.30 AM (for Sl.No. 01 & 03)** (3) Last date for uploading the tenders : **05.01.2021 before 4.30 P.M.** (4) Date of opening of tender technical bid: **07.01.2021 at 11.30 A.M.**
2	BMCRI/Sup(2)/50/ 2020-21, Dated: 19/12/2020	e-tenders are invited through e-procurement portal for the purchase of Medical Equipments required to COVID 19 Rehabilitation Centre, Victoria Hospital, BMC&RI, Bengaluru.	
3	BMCRI/Sup(2)/26/ 2020-21, Dated: 19/12/2020	e-tenders are invited through e-procurement portal for the purchase of Laptop, Stethoscope, Apron, Emergency Light, BP Apparatus, Printer, Mask & Other items for the SC/ST students of this institute under SCSP/TSP Scheme.	

Tender details, E.M.D details and other related details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the e-procurement mode only. Website: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. Interested tenderers have to register in the e- procurement portal, details of which can be viewed in the said website.
For further details contact Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.

Sd/- Director cum Dean
Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru.
DIPR/DDU/YC/2095/2020-21

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN No.U85110KA1947SGC001321
Regd.Office: 3rd Floor, KHB Shoping Complex, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru-47. Ph:25705723/24/26 Fax:25707380
e-Mail: regoffice-hgml@ka.gov.in website: www.huttigold.co.in
No.Indent No.HGML/Service/EC/01 Date:22.12.2020

Short-Term Expression of Interest (EOI) For empanelment of Consultancy Firms/Agencies for obtaining Environment Clearance for Sand Mining blocks allotted to HGML

Expression of Interest is invited from the eligible and qualified consultancy agencies willing to provide Consultancy Services for obtaining Enviromental Clearances (EC) for 43 nos of sand blocks notified by DMG. As per the New Sand policy-2020 in the districts of Raichur, Yadagiri, Kalaburagi, Haveri, Koppal and Belagavi of North Karnataka except Ballari District sand blocks. Interested Consultancy agencies shall visit the link **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for necessary details like General conditions, eligibility criteria, etc., The interested consultancy/agencies need to register with e-Procurement GoK, Bengaluru for participating in EOI. The Consultancy agencies shall get updated with addendum/corrigendum(if any) Issued online time to time on the above said link.
SHEDULE OF EVENTS: (1) Pre-bid Conference: **(Zoom) 29.12.2020 at 12.00 PM. (2)** Last date for queries/clarification: **29.12.2020 (3)** Last date for receipt of bid: **11.01.2021. (4)** Date & Time for Opening of EOI bid: **13.01.2021**

Sd/- Dy. General Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

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Jupiter, Saturn at their closest in 397 years

The two planets came within planetary kissing range on Monday's evening sky, an intimacy that will not occur again until 2080

ASTRONOMY

CAPE CANAVERAL: Jupiter and Saturn merged in the night sky on Monday, appearing closer to one another than they have since Galileo's time in the 17th century.

Astronomers say so-called conjunctions between the two largest planets in our solar system aren't particularly rare. Jupiter passes its neighbor Saturn in their respective laps around the sun every 20 years.

But this latest one is especially close: Jupiter and Saturn are just one-tenth of a degree apart from our perspective or about one-fifth the width of a full moon. They were easily visible around the world a little after sunset, weather permitting.

Toss in the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, the longest night of the year — and the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere — and this just-in-time-for-Christmas spectacle promised to be one of the greatest of Great Conjunctions.

"What is most rare is a close conjunction that occurs in our nighttime sky," said Vanderbilt University's David Weintraub, an astronomy professor. "I think it's fair to say that such an event typically may occur just once in any one person's lifetime, and I think 'once in my lifetime' is a pretty good test of whether something merits being labeled as rare or special."

It was the closest Jupiter-Saturn pairing since July 1623, when the two planets appeared a little nearer. This conjunction was almost impossible to see, however, because of its closeness to the sun.

A view of the sky from Hyderbad of Jupiter and Saturn in close range. On the right, students view the rare event through a telescope in the city | VINAY MADAPU, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Genghis Khan probably saw it clearly 800 years ago

Considerably closer and in plain view was the March 1226 conjunction of the two planets — when Genghis Khan was conquering Asia. Monday's conjunction will be the closest pairing that is visible since way back then.

Saturn and Jupiter have been drawing closer in the south-southwest sky for weeks. Jupiter — bigger and closer to Earth — is vastly brighter.

"I love watching them come closer and closer to each other and the fact that I can see it with my naked eyes from my back porch!" Virginia Tech astronomer Nahum Arav said in an email.

To see it, be ready shortly after sunset Monday, looking to the southwest fairly low on the horizon. Saturn will be the smaller, fainter blob at Jupiter's upper right. Binoculars will be needed to separate the two planets.

Despite appearances, Jupiter and Saturn will actually be more than 730 million kilometers apart. Earth, meanwhile, will be 890 million kilometers from Jupiter.

A telescope will not only capture Jupiter and Saturn in the same field of view, but even some of their brightest moons. With the naked eye, they will merge into a "highly luminous" double planet, said Florent Deleflie from the Paris Observatory.

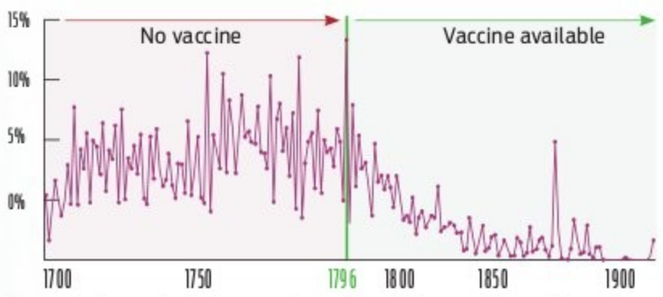
Their next super-close pairing: March 15, 2080.

EXFILE • HEALTH

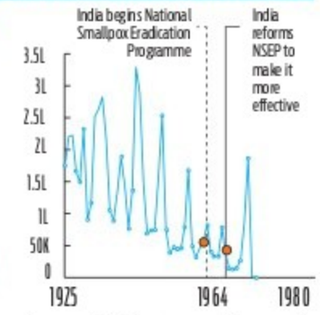
HOW VACCINES CAN TURN THE TIDE

Vaccines have been on top of people's minds over the last few months and this month has seen two successful candidates being approved by the US. While much of the public is rejoicing, some people are sceptical about the effectiveness of vaccines. And misinformation on social media hasn't helped matters. So here's a quick primer on how vaccines brought about the defeat of other, more deadly diseases, based on data gathered by Max Roser of Oxford University

Smallpox deaths as a share of all deaths in London



India's smallpox cases

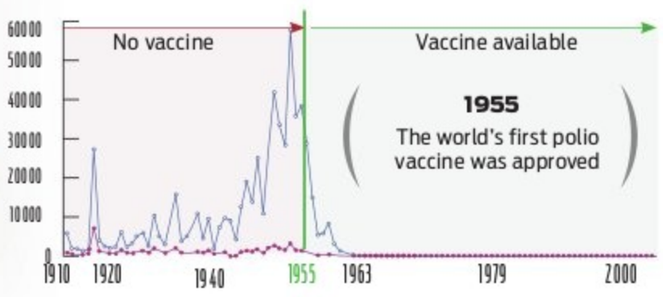


It was the first and only disease to be eradicated in human history. The smallpox vaccine was the first successful one to be made — a remarkable scientific advance given that an estimated 300 million people died of the disease in the 20th century alone. India, in particular, had reported a high number of cases until the mid-1970s.

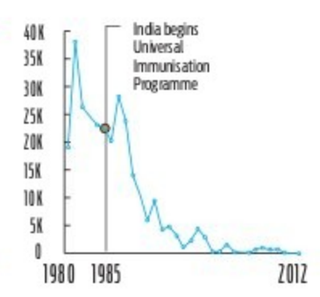
SMALLPOX

British surgeon Edward Jenner pioneered the smallpox vaccine at the end of the 18th century. He inoculated children with the never-fatal cowpox virus to shield them against the deadly smallpox. The word vaccination is itself derived from the Latin word for cow (vacca)

Paralytic polio cases & deaths in the US



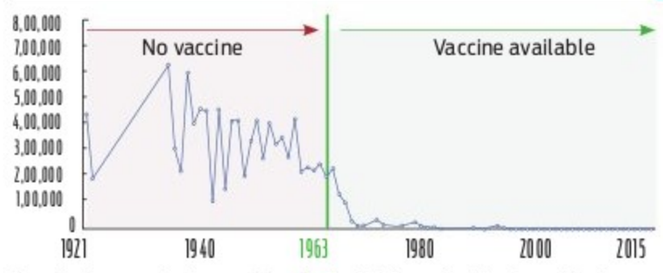
India's polio cases



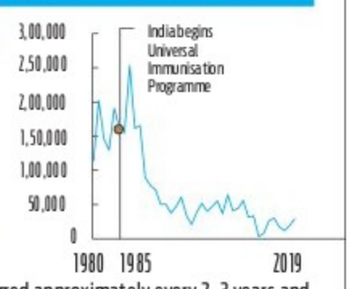
US President Franklin D Roosevelt was himself diagnosed with polio, a disease caused by the poliovirus. Virologist Jonas Salk proposed a vaccine in 1953. His supervisor was determined to conduct the clinical trials by introducing a control group (1.83 million US kids got either a placebo or vaccine shot), and thus paved the way for randomised control trials — the cornerstone of drug and vaccine development today. The vaccine was approved in 1955. The announcement, which was broadcast over TV and radio, caused millions of Americans to put down their work in celebration. "Church bells rang out and tearful families embraced," the Smithsonian magazine wrote

POLIO

Measles cases in the US



India's measles cases



Measles is very contagious and deadly. The WHO says that "major epidemics occurred approximately every 2–3 years and measles caused an estimated 2.6 million deaths each year" before the launch of a vaccine in 1963. Measles vaccination is one of humanity's success stories. About 85% of one-year-olds get the measles vaccine, globally and deaths have plunged to 95,000 yearly from 2.6 mn

MEASLES

28

The world has effective vaccines against at least 28 diseases

CHILD MORTALITY

Before the invention and the wide distribution of vaccines, billions of children died around the world. Nearly 27% of newborns and 46% of children died in pre-modern times, according to estimates of researchers Anthony Volk and Jeremy Atkinson. Thanks to advances in health care and vaccinations, the global infant mortality rate is now 2.9% and child mortality rate is 4.6%

SOURCE: Data for the charts is from Our World in Data researchers, who have gathered the figures from government reports

BELCHING ANGRILY

Billows of red smoke rise into the sky after Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big Island erupted | HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

US CDC was bullied over herd immunity

SCIENCE SPIN

TRUMP administration political appointees tried to block or change more than a dozen government reports that detailed scientific findings about the spread of the coronavirus, a House panel investigating the alleged interference said Monday. Representative James Clyburn, a Democrat, said his coronavirus committee investigators have found evidence of a "political pressure campaign" to "bully" professionals at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in what may have been an attempt to "cripple the nation's coronavirus response in a misguided effort to achieve herd immunity."

Herd immunity is shorthand for a theory — rejected by most public health experts — that society can be best protected by allowing younger people to get infected and develop natural immunity until vaccines are widely available.

The reports appeared in the CDC publication Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

New labels tell you when to dump face masks after using

RESEARCH

MOTHERWELL: After studying a ticklish question during the Covid-19 pandemic, researchers in Scotland say they have cracked the problem of when to dispose of a face mask.

Face masks require frequent rotations to remain effective, but scant attention has been given to whether people change them regularly enough, said Graham Skinner, an engineer at the Scottish company Insignia Technologies.

The company has developed a label that changes colour when it is time to dispose of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE).

The labels "use a range of smart pigments and inks that can change colour when exposed to CO2 (carbon dioxide)," Skinner told AFP at the company's laboratory in Motherwell, near Glasgow.

When the pandemic started and there was confusion about when to throw out a face mask, we decided to use the technology to develop a colour-changing label that could be suitable for application on PPE like face masks and aprons.

FACT OF THE MATTER

EU APPROVES PFIZER VACCINE

MEDICINE

The EU's drug regulator authorised the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine on Monday, and said there was no evidence it would not work against a new strain found mainly in Britain. The European Medicines Agency said the "historic" step paved the way for vaccinations to finally start within days across the 27-nation EU where cases of the disease are surging. The Amsterdam-based regulator moved the decision forward from December 29 under pressure from EU governments, after Britain and the United States gave the green light weeks earlier. "It is a significant step forward in the fight against this pandemic that is causing suffering and hardship," EMA chief Emer Cooke said.

GIANT LAKE

World's largest inland fishery in dire straits in Cambodia

ENVIRONMENT

KOH CHIVANG: As night falls over his floating village, fisherman Leng Vann puffs on a cigarette and heaves a sigh for Tonle Sap, the great inland lake that has sustained Cambodia for centuries.

More than a million people live on or around the lake, the world's largest inland fishery, but water levels have plummeted and fish stocks dwindled because of climate change and dams upstream on the Mekong.

Tonle Sap was once renowned for its abundance of fish and wildlife – 43-year-old Leng Vann recalls catching hundreds of kilos a day in his nets.

His house, which floats on the lake, sits five metres (16 feet) lower than it should in mid-October, at the end of the rainy season, and when he draws his net from the waters, it is empty.

"We fishermen survive by water and fish. When there is no water and fish, what else can we hope for?" said Leng Vann.

"Our future is dark," he said, as he rowed his boat back to his modest home. The lake, a world heritage ecological reserve, depends on an unusual seasonal reversal – in the dry season, it drains into the Mekong via a fast-flowing river artery.

But when the rains come from May to October, the mighty Mekong is so powerful that the water flows backwards, replenishing the lake. It swells over four times its smallest size to 14,500 square km at the height of the floods, according to the Mekong River Commission (MRC) -- an area bigger than Lebanon.

But lately the reverse flows have been seriously delayed. Last year the amount of water that flowed into the lake was down around a quarter from the average levels seen around the turn of the century.

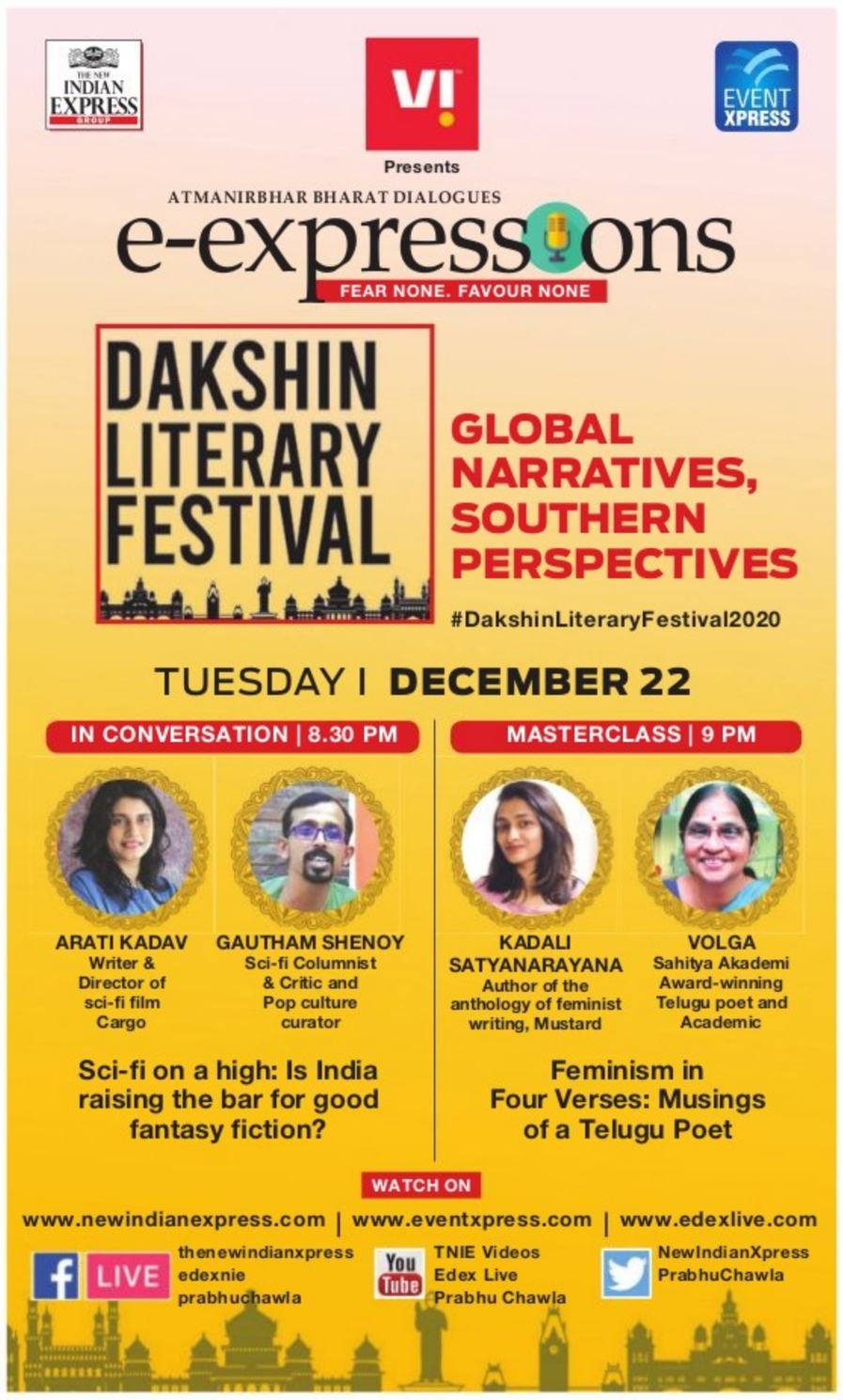
The reverse flow effect has been at its lowest since 1997, leading to "extremely dry conditions", the MRC says.

Weather conditions linked to climate change, such as a major drought last year and the "El Nino" climate effect, have contributed to the crisis.

Environmentalists also point to the dozen or so major dams built across the mainstream Mekong as a factor in slowing the flow, along with irrigation dams built on tributary rivers.

The change in water levels is having a major effect on surrounding wetlands, precipitating a decline in endangered species living around the lake.

Nearly one-third of the Tonle Sap's natural habitats vanished in the 25 years to 2018 and half of the lake floodplain was now under rice cultivation, as per a recent study. "Without urgent, coordinated action... the ecosystem that has sustained Cambodia for generations may be lost," it said. Low fish stocks have pushed most of the 2,600 fishing families living in Koh Chivang -- a community of five floating villages on the lake -- to grow chilli and other crops.



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TUESDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Lit for Christmas!

Thomas Edison created the first strand of electric lights on this day in 1882. He put them around the outside of his Menlo Park Lab for Christmas

PRESIDENTIAL INDEED

It was not until President Grover Cleveland commissioned a White House tree lighted with Edison bulbs in 1895 that the general public started taking notice of it

TRADITIONS DIE HARD

However, the use of candles to light Christmas trees dates back to the middle of the 7th century. President Cleveland's tree had more than a hundred multicoloured lgihts

MARKET OF ITS OWN

Today, approximately 25-30 million Real Christmas Trees are sold each year in the United States. Almost all of these come from Christmas Tree plantations

Bhuvan Gowda joins Prabhas-starrer Salaar

PG 4

Harshika Poonacha in Laxmi Krishna's creation

MATCH POINT

Painting the city red and white are designers who are coming up with themed outfits for the Christmas season

MONIKA MONALISA

RED, green and white... these are the colours of the Christmas season world-over. But giving it a quirky twist this festive season are city designers who are coming up with themed designs for men and women. Designer Laxmi Krishna's all-red dress, and a saree with the print of all things Christmas-sy, can make you stand out at any themed party. The clothes were donned by Sandalwood actress Harshika Poonacha, who was recently in London for a movie shoot. "Harshika has always been a sweetheart and sport about experimenting with clothes," says Krishna.

This is not just any red dress, emphasises the designer who has put in a lot of thought into designing the dress. "If you observe closely, the dress has a lot of bows. Even Harshika's hair has been styled to look like a bow. It's a metaphorical way of saying that this Christmas, we accept ourselves the way we are," explains Krishna.

While red is always the most preferred colour, many are also opting for an all-white look. Fashion designer Nagashree Gururaj says white is a classic colour and sometimes it's wiser to downplay a tone to stand out. "White is my go-to colour, it's difficult to go wrong with it. I came up with an all-white frilly, fairytale kind of gown," says Gururaj, calling it an understated yet effective piece.

If girls are going to dress for the occasion, why should guys be left behind in this colour coordinated game? Fashion designer Riyaz Pasha, who specialises in menswear agrees that red and white are boldest colours but many are ready to experiment with it. "Men can always team a red blazer with red pants. It might sound bold and eccentric but you can always pair it separately for other occasions," says Pasha, adding that when it comes to festivities, it is also important to dress according to the occasion to feel involved.

Designer Riyaz Pasha's Christmas themed outfit

SWEET SOUVENIRS

Kourampiedes from Greece, bredele from France... Expats in the city are cooking up a storm of Christmas delicacies to give you a taste of the celebration in their home countries

SIMRAN AHUJA

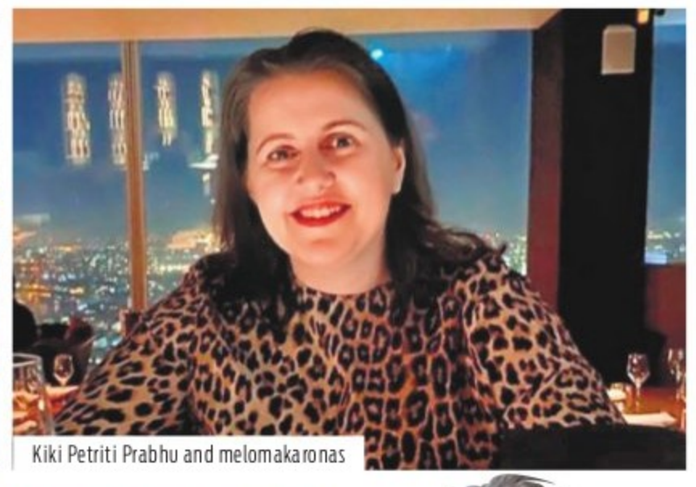
BACK home in Paris, this is what Aurelie Lalande's Christmas festivities look like: Friends, family, a warm buzz of chatter, and a galette des rois (a 'king's cake' or puff pastry filled with almond cream) shared between everyone. One lucky person in the room finds a little trinket or ceramic tile in their slice and gets christened king or queen, complete with a paper crown that is donned. Lalande, who has been in Bengaluru since 2016, may be miles away from France but she's keeping this custom alive through traditional desserts she is offering this season. The founder of Cafe Plume in Indiranagar has a special menu that also includes bredele or Christmas cookies, winter apple tart and buche. "There's no celebration in France without these yule logs of cake, filled with either chocolate-and-pear or lemon-and-raspberry flavours. It's had on Christmas eve or for lunch on Dec. 25. The galette is a post-Christmas treat, relished in the first week of January," says Lalande.

Other expats in the city are also giving Bengalureans a taste of what Christmas is like in different parts of the world. Cookies are synonymous with this time of year but how about trying some melomakarona and kourampiedes? "These are the most traditional desserts of my country during Christmas," says Kiki Petriti Prabhu, who was raised in Piraeus, near Athens, and moved to Bengaluru six years ago. She is also the owner of Marzipan Cafe and Bakery, where you can head to for a bite of these cookies. "Melomakarona, or honey walnut cookies, have spices like cinnamon and cloves, and kourampiedes are made with ghee and almonds. Since Greek food is similar to Indian food in terms of ingredients, I haven't had to change the original recipe. These desserts are just like what my mother and grandmother made," adds Prabhu.

And what's Christmas without mulled wine? But if you were in Mexico, you'd most likely have a glass of ponche instead. This seasonal special is being served at Chinita, and head chef and partner Candice Lock Mirchandani promises the drink will pack a punch. "This Mexican Christmas punch has fruits like guava, apple, pear, tamarind and sugarcane, with spices like cinnamon and nutmeg. Instead of wine, they drink it with rum or tequila," explains Mirchandani, who hails from Malaysia and developed a fondness for Mexican cuisine during her 11-year stint in the US. Chinita, however, will serve a non-alcoholic ponche. "This drink can be quite warming for winter and is packed with vitamin C, which is perfect for the times," says Mirchandani.

There's a lot of love that goes into making the Christmas fare, more so because the yearning for home is stronger in these times. Paula James-Scott, whose spontaneous trip to India 13 years ago turned into a permanent stay, may not be travelling to the UK this year but the aroma wafting from the goodies she has been making is comforting enough. This baker has been whipping up batches of hot wine, gingerbread cookies and mince pies, which she sells through her venture, Polly Hannah's Kitchen. "In the Victorian times, mince pies had meat but now the traditional British Christmas pies, which go perfectly with coffee or hot wine, don't. The filling is a blend of cranberries, currants, apples, oranges and seedless raisins, infused with brandy or whiskey," shares James-Scott. The real magic is in the spice mix, which comprises cinnamon, mace, cloves, ginger, nutmeg and coriander. "Back home, we have a saying about how it is never too early for mince pies. In times like now, traditions help us stay connected."

Paula James-Scott with Christmas dishes



Kiki Petriti Prabhu and melomakaronas

Aurélie Lalande and chocolate and pear buche

Candice Lock Mirchandani and Christmas Ponche

FLAVOURS FROM WORLD OVER

FRENCH CONNECTION: Galette des rois (puff pastries stuffed with almond cream or chocolate-and-pear), bredele (cookies), winter apple tart and buche (yule logs filled with chocolate-and-pear or lemon-and-raspberry). Contact Aurelie Lalande on 95919-42490. Price: ₹320 - ₹2,100

GREEK GOODNESS: Melomakarona (honey walnut cookies) and kourampiedes (butter almond cookies) are available for `50 a piece at Marzipan Café and Bakery, Ulsoor

PACKING A PUNCH: Mexican ponche at Chinita, Indiranagar and Koramangala, is priced at ₹150 (excluding tax). Also available on Swiggy

EASY AS PIE: Mince pies, mulled wine, gingerbread cookies, pecan brownies and more, available at prices that begin at ₹150. Contact Paula James-Scott at 9560831518

CITY READ

Hospital organises jam session

To salute Covid-19 warriors who have been on duty through the pandemic, city-based Columbia Asia Hospitals joined hands with musicians Veruschka Pandey and Ashish Dubey to organise a jam session recently. This music therapy was organised over a video conferencing platform. Pandey and Dubey performed a mix of English, Hindi and Kannada songs. The one-hour session started with popular hit songs from Hollywood, Bollywood and Sandalwood. Christmas carols added a festive spirit and popular songs like *My heart will go on* were also sung at the programme.

The NGO plans to conduct such exercises in many parts of the city

TRUNK CALL

This B'luru NGO is striving to make the greenery of the city healthier, with a drive to remove nails and staples from trees

EXPRESS FEATURES

IT may be good to plant saplings and increase the city's green cover but it is important to take care of the existing trees as well. Planning for a better start to the new year, city-based NGO Team Hasiru is conducting a drive to remove iron nails, staples, posters, and advertisements stuck on trees, which, they say, hinders the internal structure of trees. The initiative, which will be taking place near Netkalappa Circle, Basavanagudi on Dec. 27 at 8.30am, is also open for citizens to join in.

The old trees on the road are filled with staples and iron nails that hold onto advertisement pamphlets about paying guests, tutors, etc. While most of these are torn after a few days, the nails on the tree trunks remain neglected. "This is just abuse for the tree. People find it easier to staple the advertisements to the trunk without taking responsibility to remove it. What people don't understand is that this negligence hampers the growth and lifespan of the tree," explains Chirag S Rao, co-founder and managing trustee of Team Hasiru. Ironically, he adds, people even staple fliers with quotes about protecting trees while they themselves do the opposite.

The initiative is also open for the public to join in. In the past, citizens have reached out to the team to show their concern. "Not everyone is irresponsible. There are many people who are concerned about the environment. So, we have kept the initiative open to those interested," says Rao, adding that the MLA of Basavanagudi, LA Ravi Subramanya, is going to be the chief guest of the event.

The project is done in collaboration with BBMP and the MLA's Basavanagudi office. Future plans will see them trying the initiative in different areas too. "We are planning to organise this endeavour throughout Bengaluru to ensure protection of existing greenery," says Sharath T P, co-founder of the NGO.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

WINTER MENU

Here's some winter fare that can chase away those chills. Prepared using local seafood, meats, and seasonal produce, the menu contains a mix of warming soups, mains and desserts.
Where: Smoke House Deli, Lavelle Road and Indiranagar
When: Ongoing

DONUTS, THE FESTIVE WAY

Imagine that cute Santa face or a lovely Christmas tree as donuts for your Christmas celebrations! Mad Over Donuts is here to delight you with such gourmet donuts designed for Christmas! Available in Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi & Chennai till January 3. **For details, visit:** madoverdonuts.com; **Order at:** moddelivery.com

SEASON FOR SUNFLOWER

Soulflower assures you'll be looking gorgeous for those under-the-mistletoe moments. Treat yourself and your loved ones to a true pampering experience this Christmas along with Soulflower Secret Santa Beauty Christma Gift Collection and Soulflower Lavender Christmas Set. **Available at:** sunflower.biz

DINNERWARE OF DESIRE

With Christmas being just a few days away, luxury homegrown dinnerware brand Kaunteya has curated two sets of gifting box for your loved ones. The items include a cookie platter with two coffee mugs and four sets of coffee mugs. All products are crafted in premium bone China and in 24KT gold plating. **Available at:** kaunteya.in

CHECK OUT THE KALA SILK COTTON EXPO FOR SAREES AND HANDICRAFT ITEMS. TILL DEC. 29, AT SRI DWARKA CONVENTION HALL, NANJAPPA CIRCLE

Festive shopping

Phoenix Marketcity Bengaluru is all decked up in Christmas decor that includes a lights display, a Christmas tree, Santa welcoming visitors and more. Shoppers also stand a chance to win prizes worth ₹1 crore, car, bike, etc.
Where: Phoenix Marketcity **When:** Ongoing

Wine for the times

Grover Zampa Vineyards is all set to add to the festive spirit with its latest offering. India's wine producer introduces bottled mulled wine – One Tree Hill Mulled Wine. This wine gives an Indian twist to this European classic. Priced at `650. **For details, visit:** groverzampa.in

Shop till you drop

Head to this store and check out jewellery and clothing by different designers. The collection promises something for everyone with its different price ranges.
Where: The Emerald Store, Richmond Town
When: Ongoing

Asia's largest robotics challenge is back!

Avishkaar has opened registrations for its flagship global competition, Avishkaar League 2020. This year, the League aims to identify and celebrate superhero innovators who think differently to improve the world that is inundated by COVID-19. The competition has been designed for students between grades 1 to 9. **For details, call:** 8506841515 or visit www.avishkaar.cc/avishkaar-league

Period care in a box

&Me presents their monthly period box – Inside & Out, which aims at providing complete and uncompromising period comfort. The kit comprises of &Me's niche offerings like Period Tea, Period Chocolates, "No compromise" Sanitary pads, "Easy" Menstrual cup and Soothe Roll On.
Available at: andme.in

Velammal's own Margazhi utsav

Velammal School is set to host Digital Margazhi Utsav 2020 , featuring sessions by popular singers Srinivas, Anuradha Sriram, Nithyashree Mahadevan, Shravan, Sai Charan and many others. The festival will be live-streamed at 6 pm from December 23 to January 5. **Watch it at:** Velammal Nexus YouTube channel.

DIY perfume journey

ISAK Labs brings to you a unique box to stimulate your olfactory senses and 'Make your own Perfume'. There are 12 ingredients/bases ready for perfumery along with an ISAK Lab Workbook with notes, formula sheets, and space to take down your personal notes. The detailed instructions and steps will guide you through the process, helping you explore your creativity while mesmerising you through the creation of your unique bespoke perfume. Priced at `2,700.
Available at: isakfragrances.com, silkayra.com, storyofindia.in, scentkraft.com

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

DAL TIKKI

INGREDIENTS

- **Soaked moong dal:** 1 cup
- **Ginger:** 1 piece ■ **Green chillies:** 4-5
- **Coriander leaves:** 2 tbsp
- **Chopped onion:** 1
- **Chopped capsicum:** 1/2
- **Cornflour:** 1.5 tbsp
- **Cumin powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Aamchur powder:** 1.2 tsp
- **Chaat masala:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Add 1 cup of soaked moong dal to boiling water. Let it cook for 5 minutes.
- Drain water and let it cool down.
- Grind the dal with ginger, green chillies and coriander leaves into a paste.
- Add onion, capsicum, corn flour, cumin powder, chaat masala, salt and aamchur to the paste.
- Grease your palm with oil and make tikkis with this mixture.
- Roast the tikkis on a pan and serve with green chutney.

— Ekta A, Bengaluru

FIT BIT

UTTHITA PARSVAKONASANA

(EXTENDED SIDE ANGLE POSE)

In Sanskrit, utthita means 'extended', parsva means 'side', kona means 'angle' and asana means 'posture'. It is a standing pose that utilises all muscles of the body. It is increasing and enhancing our stability, passiveness and stamina. Traditionally, it stimulates the Manipura Chakra, which is winds of the body and activates the body's energy too. It is an incredibly difficult pose when done correctly, but is an excellent way to develop your stability. Many Asians believe that the pose makes you feel immense happiness, youthfulness. Sun Salutation, Adho Mukha Svanasana and Prasarita Padottanasana to be practised before doing this asana.

STEPS

- First, warm up your body and perform the routine asanas.
- Then, start this asana with Tadasana. With a deep exhalation, keep your feet 3–4 feet apart.
- Turn your right foot outwards 90 degrees to the right so that your toes face the front of your mat. Now, turn your left foot slightly inwards 45 to 60 degrees to the right.
- Align your right heel with your left heel.
- Raise your arms in line.
- With a deep inhalation, firm your lower belly in and up.
- Then, stretch your body over the right leg. Then, bring the right arm down. Put your right palm on the floor by the side of the right foot.
- Reach your left arm straight up to the tip of your hand above your head or on top..
- Traditionally, your head turns up to look under your left armpit. Once comfortable, begin the breathing and stay in the pose for 30-90 seconds.
- Return to Tadasana and rest. Repeat on the other side.

BENEFITS

- Helps in stretching and shaping your body as per the needs of yoga.
- Stimulates both the Manipura Chakra and abdominal organs. They activate the body's energy too.
- Not only stretches but also strengthens the hips, legs, abdomen, knees, palms, and ankles.
- It also works the core muscles.
- Increases more flexibility in the shoulder, neck, and arms.
- Prevents osteoporosis as well as relieves lower back pain.
- More beneficial for those who suffer from sciatica pain.
- It also relieves constipation.

LIMITATIONS

- If you have an injury to your hips, knees, arms, neck or shoulders, or high or low blood pressure, headache or insomnia, avoid this.
- People with migraine problems may find the movement of head and neck difficult. So, first improve these with Pranayama before attempting this pose.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

GREAT WOMEN OF BUSINESS

From Coco Chanel to Julia Child, in this special 12-episode series, expect stories of the triumphs of individuals ahead of their time. The podcast examines their most innovative business principles and how those shaped their work and lives.
● On Apple Podcasts

THE SCHOOL OF GREATNESS

In this podcast, author Lewis Howes shares inspiring interviews from the most successful people on the planet. These are world-renowned leaders in business, entertainment, sports, science, health, and literature who will inspire you to unlock your inner greatness and live your best life.
● On Apple Podcasts

VISHNU KI SECRET LIFE

In this podcast, you'll learn something new about nutrition, fitness, life or lifestyle choices, from Vishnu's own experiences and sometimes, his questionable decisions.
● On Spotify

THE BIG SHOTS - DOSA KING

This thrilling Spotify Original podcast by Sikhya Entertainment, offers an epic drama about the exponential rise of P Rajagopal, the founder of Saravana Bhavan, and the shocking scandal that led to his fall.
● On Spotify

LETS NOT MEET: A TRUE HORROR PODCAST

The podcast offers true horror stories written by those that made it out alive. Those narrated are first person accounts and these are an anthology of terror and suspense. It's produced by martial artist.
● On Apple Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

PUDHUPETTAI

After seeing his mother dead, a young boy runs away and is later recruited by a gangster. After becoming the right hand man of his employer, he makes serious enemies and everyone starts targeting him.
● Cast: Dhanush, Sneha, Sonia Agarwal

UNNAI NINAITHU

A young man tries to explain to his lover that her fiance is a crook. She refuses to believe him. Later, she realises her mistake and comes back to him. But the man now loves another woman.
● Cast: Suriya, Laila, Sneha

SILAMBATTAM

A story about the feuds within a family that take on unmanageable proportions and result in death and despair for many. About an extended family in a village, leading a happy and united existence.
● Cast: T.R. Silambarasan, Sana Khaan, Sneha

APRIL MAADHATHIL

Kathir, a youth from a poor family, and Shweta, a rich girl, meet in college and fall in love with each other. However, the two of them do not confess their feelings for each other.
● Cast: Srikanth, Sneha, Gayatri Jayaraman

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 HOW STATS FOOL JURIES BY PETER DONNELLY

Oxford mathematician Peter Donnelly reveals the common mistakes humans make in interpreting statistics, along with the devastating impact these errors can have on the outcome of criminal trials. Peter is an expert in probability theory who applies statistical methods to genetic data, spurring advances in disease treatment and insight on our evolution.

2 MYSTERIES OF VERNACULAR: SARCOPHAGUS BY JESSICA ORECK AND RACHAEL TEEL

Dating back to the early Roman Empire, the word sarcophagus originally referred to the limestone a coffin was made of, rather than the coffin itself. From flesh-eating stone to a stone coffin, Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel unbury the sarcophagus.

3 MAKING MAPS TO FIGHT DISASTER, BUILD ECONOMIES BY LALITESH KATRAGADDA

As of 2005, only 15 per cent of the world was mapped. This slows the delivery of aid after a disaster. In this short talk, Google's Lalitesh Katragadda demos Map Maker, a group map-making tool that people around the globe are using to map their world.

4 THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF MONEY BY AJAY BANGA

Roughly two billion people worldwide don't have access to banks or financial services. How do we bridge this divide? Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga sits down with TED current affairs curator Whitney Pennington Rodgers to discuss how innovative public-private partnerships can help bring everyone into the digital economy.

5 THE SHADOW PANDEMIC OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19 BY KEMI DASILVA-IBRU

Mandatory lockdowns, quarantines and shelter-in-place orders meant to contain COVID-19 have created a shadow pandemic of domestic abuse, says physician Kemi DaSilva-Ibru. She describes how Nigeria quickly retrained basic health care providers to respond to the crisis.

NOW STREAMING

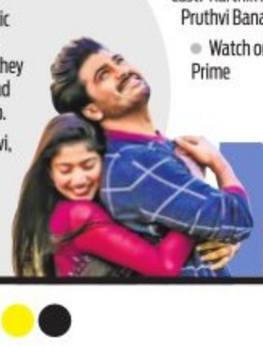
REGIONAL

FRENCH BIRIYANI (Kannada)

Simon is a representative of a drug company from France and Asgar is a local auto driver from Shivajinagar. They share a two-day journey in the city where a comedy of errors changes the way they look at life.
Cast: Danish Sait, Sal Yusuf, Disha Madan, Rangayana Raghu, Michael Madhu
Watch on: Amazon Prime

PADI PADI LECHE MANASU (Telugu)

Set in Kolkata, the romantic drama chronicles the shared destiny of a young couple as they navigate through the highs and lows of a budding relationship.
Cast: Sharwanand, Sai Pallavi, Suneel
● Watch on: Amazon Prime



PIKU (Hindi)

A quirky comedy about the relationship between a daughter and her aging father, whose eccentricities drive everyone crazy.
Cast: Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan, Irrfan Khan
● Watch on: SonyLIV

GANTUMOOTE

A 16-year-old girl embarks on a journey of life where she deals with understanding herself, the changing world, bullying, academic pressure and her transcending journey of first love.
Cast: Karthik Achari, Aryan, Pruthvi Banawasi
● Watch on: Amazon Prime

SCAM 1992: THE HARSHAD MEHTA STORY (Hindi, series)

Set in 1980's and 90's Bombay, it follows the life of Harshad Mehta, a stockbroker who took the stock market to dizzying heights and his catastrophic downfall.
Cast: Pratik Gandhi, Shreya Dhanwanthary, Anjali Barot
● Watch on: SonyLIV

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

UNPAUSED (Hindi, series)

The plot focuses on the fall and ultimate rise of Chadha's character as she comes to terms with her husband's indiscretions with the help of a friendly neighbour.
Cast: Hussain Sayed Anwar, Abhishek Banerjee, Shardul Bharadwaj
● Watch on: Amazon Prime

NINNU KORI (Telugu)

Two lovers, Pallavi and Uma get separated by circumstances, but reconnect years later, when Pallavi is happily married to someone else.
Cast: Nani, Nivetha Thomas, Aadhi
● Watch on: Amazon Prime

FOREIGN

MARY POPPINS RETURNS (English)

A few decades after her original visit, Mary Poppins, the magical nanny, returns to help the Banks siblings and Michael's children through a difficult time in their lives.
Cast: Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Ben Whishaw
● Watch on: Disnep + Hotstar

THE NIGHT COMES FOR US (Indonesian)

Ito, a gangland enforcer, caught amidst a treacherous and violent insurrection within his Triad crime family upon his return home from a stint abroad.
Cast: Joe Taslim, Iko Uwais, Julie Estelle
● Watch on: Netflix

BORAT SUBSEQUENT MOVIEFILM (English)

Follow-up film to the 2006 comedy centering on the real-life adventures of a fictional Kazakh television journalist named Borat.
Cast: Sacha Baron Cohen, Maria Bakalova, Tom Hanks
● Watch on: Amazon Prime

REBECCA (English)

A young newlywed arrives at her husband's imposing family estate on a windswept English coast and finds herself battling the shadow of his first wife, Rebecca, whose legacy lives on in the house long after her death.
Cast: Lily James, Armie Hammer, Kristin Scott Thomas
● Watch on: Netlix

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix: ₹ 199 per month
Amazon Prime: ₹ 129 per month
Zee5: ₹ 99 per month

HAPPIER, SAFER 2021! LISTEN UP, CORONA

Time and again, I hear these statements, and am sure that it has been prime on our mind through this year: "Just a few days to go for this year. Let 2021 begin, and all will be well."

Another: "Hope this year ends soon and all its negativity and gloom goes with it."

And another: "I have struck out year 2020 from my calendar!"

The last one's expression, in fact, has been captured by *Time* magazine on the cover of its December 14, 2020 issue — by red-striking-out year 2020, and describing 2020 as "The worst year ever". Only four times before has this magazine carried a red-strike-out on its cover: In 1945, to cross out Adolf Hitler; in 2003, to cross out Saddam Hussein at the beginning of Iraq War; in 2006, to cross out Abu Mousab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq after he was killed by US forces; and in 2011, to cross out Osama bin Laden after he was killed in a mission launched by US Navy Seals at a house in Abbottabad near Islamabad in Pakistan.

Every year, when it nears its end, there is hope expressed for a better one to come. It's no different this time.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted us in more ways than one, and it has been deep, changing our way of living, learning, socialising and even perceiving each other. We have started to live with a higher degree of negativity towards everything that touches us. How long and what kind of a difference it is going to make to our lives in the years to come is yet to be estimated.

The pandemic persists, and we do not know what course it may take. But we live with hope for better times ahead. And in that hope lies our optimistic thoughts of leaving the Covid-19 virus behind with 2020 as we step out of this year at the midnight gong of December 31 and walk into the fledgling seconds, minutes and hours of 2021.

But it is only we humans who are so obsessed with numbers, dates, calendars. So much, that we assume that an era, with all its ills, ends with the completion of a period demarcated by a number — like a calendar year coming to an end, and a new one beginning with the next number.

Unfortunately, the best of our efforts cannot make the SARS-CoV-2 virus that spreads Covid-19 infection understand the definition of a calendar, or for that matter make it bow to the wishes of humans that they need to just evaporate when January 1, 2021 dawns.

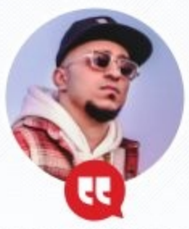
Our thoughts are haunted by the presence of SARS-CoV-2, and fears about getting into its grip.

However, as curtains slowly but surely fall on 2020 and a new year begins, let us wake up to a fact: The SARS-CoV-2 is not the only problem in our lives, there are many more at different levels which are not just limited to the biological arena. Even as we survive various bacteria and viruses — or manage to successfully duck them — we still have to face problems and challenges in our conscious surroundings, locally, nationally and internationally. These microbes are just a part of them.

As Harold "Hal" Glen Borland, American author, journalist and naturalist, states: "Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning, but a going on with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us."

Let's stay safer, healthier and wiser!

Illustration
Tapas Ranjan



The lockdown this year gave me a lot of time to create music. I wanted *Flex* to be the first release from the lot because it's something I felt people needed this year

Vignesh Shivanand aka Brodha V, rapper

GET UP AND DANCE

Ending 2020 with a bang is city-based rapper Brodha V who has dropped his latest single, *Flex*, which can make it to your New Year party mix

Brodha V flanked by dancers Kevin Joseph (left) and Velu Kumar

MONIKA MONALISA

Brodha V has a knack of making the funny videos with the grooviest tunes. This time, Vignesh Shivanand aka Brodha V has done it with his latest single *Flex*, which he's dropped recently. Armed with swift-flowing lyrics and groovy Punjabi tunes, the song has already garnered more than 30 lakh views within a week.

While the year has been tough on all of us, *Flex* is his way to uplift spirits. "The lockdown this year gave me a lot of time to create music. I wanted *Flex* to be the first release from the lot because it's something I felt people needed this year," says Brodha, adding that he wanted to come out with a song that would get people dancing. Talk about picking a catchy hook word, and the rapper explains that he's played around with the word 'flex', often used as a subtle way of showing off.

Known for experimenting with Carnatic music and with rap, this time Brodha has played around with Punjabi lyrics. The video also features choreographers and dancers Kevin Joseph and Velu Kumar.

While many musicians were coming up with singles during the lockdown, Brodha took a conscious call not to compromise on the quality of his production, ensuring that the end product is top notch. Having been inspired by big names in rap world – Eminem, Timbaland and 2Pac – Brodha's previous works include singles like *Aathma Raama*, *Aigiri Nandini*, *Round Round* and *Way too Easy*. All of these helped him create a niche for himself. His last release *Vainko*, with the boys from Jordindian turned out to be blockbuster on YouTube as well as on TikTok, where the #VainkoChallenge was one of the most popular trends a the long time.

An upcoming performance looks at touch, intimacy and human connection through a stylised movement piece

Staying in touch

In a time where closeness loses to caution, this performance makes one ponder about the human need for intimacy. Called the *Rorschach Touch*, the piece explores one's perception towards human connection through different characters, movement and narratives. It is choreographed by Diya Naidu and performed by Akshata Joshi, Asha Ponikiewska, Masoom Parmar, Nihal Pasha, Niranjan Harish and Pia Bunglowala.

"Untouchability has always been an issue in India and with the pandemic, there's a new layer to this. The piece looks at normalising touch and showing people that humans have always been tactile beings – grown men in villages walk with their pinkies intwined, we show affection by hugging our parents, etc. It's a part of our culture and we must not forget it," explains Parmar. The piece was originally conceptualised in 2014 and has since then been performed 30 times in its various stages of development. While Parmar has been a part of the lineup since 2017, Bunglowala joined two years ago. Every performance, however, is different, she says. The performers have been reduced from 10 to 6 and some scenes have been reworked due to Covid-19 safety measures taking precedence. "In one scene, another performer and I play two young girls. Since the piece is immersive, we would rely on audience interaction, where our characters would tease them in non-threatening ways. We've reworked this part to be on the safer side," explains Bunglowala.

In older versions, which took place before the pandemic, the performers form a circle with the audience as part of the act. This portion too has been tweaked. "This is a strange year to be performing something on touch but we wanted to do our own version of it. So for the ending ritual, we are going to show the audience that every touch may not be contact, but every contact is touch. We can show them this experience through verbal cues," says Parmar.

Tickets (₹500 on Instamojo) limited to 10 attendees. It takes place at The Courtyard, Shanti Nagar, on Dec. 23, at 12.30pm and 4pm.

In one scene, another performer and I play two young girls. Since the piece is immersive, we would rely on audience interaction, where our characters would tease them in non-threatening ways. We've reworked this part to be on the safer side

Pia Bunglowala, performer

Artistes show human connection through movements

CRAFTING NEW NARRATIVES

This 10-day festival is bringing together popular artistes to celebrate performing arts, which have taken a hit during the pandemic, and ring out 2020

VIDYA IYENGAR

A performance by walking violinist Aneesh Vidyashankar, classical fusion music rendition on the Hawaiian guitar by Grammy winner Prakash Sontakke; a ballet by Padmini Ravi & Deepti Sudhindra... Kalotsava 2020, a 10-day festival being organised by ArtMantram Trust, is all about art and artistes.

The idea behind the festival, according to Yumna Harisingh Jawa, the founding trustee and vice-president of the organisation, is multifold – to provide a performance platform for musicians and artistes, provide them with remuneration, ring out the year celebrating music and dance, and raise funds for artistes in dire straits. "All artistes, even those who are financially secure, have felt the pain of the current time. Everyone knows the big names, but the arts support the livelihoods of not just the supporting musicians, but all those who work in the industry. For those who have given their lives to their craft, it is a source of immense pride, and it has been difficult for practitioners to find themselves entirely dependent on the goodwill of others. It is, therefore, critical for us to find a way to create earning opportunities. On a recent call, Tara Kini of Sunaad was referring to how one performance a month is enough to sustain her accompanist who is travelling to Bengaluru for her performance here," says Harisingh Jawa who is putting this festival together with her mother, Jija Madhavan Harisingh.

Besides performances, it also includes a silent auction by artists Anjolie Ela Menon, Sujata Bajaj, Sudip Roy and others; and giving away the ArtMantram Lifetime Achievement Awards for Women in the Arts and Letters to Vyjayanthimala Bali, Devaki Jain, and Rukmini Varma.

The festival has performances by artistes from various parts of the world. "We have loved these opportunities to bring together artistes without worrying about visas, flight tickets and hotel stays. Conversely, raising money has been very difficult. Especially this year, when everyone has opened their hearts and wallets to support others in the community. And yet, there is more to be done," she says.

The festival is following the hybrid model, which is becoming the norm, with events being held online, as well as live at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. As Harisingh Jawa says, "For the performing arts, there is a magic that comes on a live stage. Each performance creates an energy that is ephemeral. Recognising the fundamental need to open performance halls again, of course, with an overabundance of caution, is why we have decided to go with a hybrid model."

The festival is taking place between Dec 21 and 30. For details, log on to artmantram.org

Aneesh Vidyashankar

All artistes, even those who are financially secure, have felt the pain of the current time. Everyone knows the big names, but the arts support the livelihoods of not just the supporting musicians, but all those who work in the industry. It is critical for us to find a way to create earning opportunities

Yumna Harisingh Jawa, founding trustee and vice-president, ArtMantram Trust

Refreshing change

After all those outdoor activities, actor Aindrita Ray is concerned about her skin. Which is why she headed for an R & R to a skin lab. Taking to social media, Ray shared a photograph with the caption, "After unplugging my self from my daily routine and refreshing my soul. A quick visit to Skinlab Bangalore,to help rejuvenate my Skin after all those outdoor activities. Thankyou #SkinlabBangalore."

Pet therapy

What's actor Rakshit Shetty up to? His Instagram handle reveals that the Sandalwood artiste is passionate about pets. He shared some adorable photographs with the caption, "As the final schedule of #777Charlie is set to commence soon. By the way, if you are wondering what I do in between the shoots on the sets, here is the clue."

SMART ADS

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Bhuvan Gowda comes on board Prashanth Neel's Prabhas-starrer *Salaar*

The camera person, who has been associated with the director right from *Urgramm,* will be joining the *KGF* filmmaker for the fourth time

CE FEATURES

KGF director Prashanth Neel is teaming up with *Baahubali* hero Prabhas for *Salaar*, which is being made by Hombale Films. The movie has also got on board cinematographer *Bhuvan Gowda*. The photographer-turned-DOP, who has worked with Prashanth Neel right from *Ugramm*, will now team up with him for the fourth time, after *KGF Chapter 1* and *Chapter 2*. The news has become all the more special for Bhuvan Gowda since it has come on the occasion of his birthday on Tuesday. The DOP, also known for his work in *Pushpaka Vimana* and *Rathavara*, had won accolades for the visual spectacle created by him in *KGF Chapter 1*.

While he is looking forward to repeating history with *Chapter 2*, he is happy to be working with Prashanth Neel and Prabhas in *Salaar*. The first look of the film shows the actor posing with a rifle, and carries the caption, "The most violent men..called one man...The most violent!" Prashanth Neel is all set to offer a larger-than-life action drama.

Talking to *CE* about the positive response received by the first look, Bhuvan Gowda adds that the photoshoot for Prabhas in *Salaar* was done by him. "What began with *Ugramm* has been an excellent journey with Prashanth Neel, and I have had a memorable experience working with the director in *KGF Chapter 1* and *Chapter 2* as well. I am now gearing up to begin my next. I am looking forward to working with Prabhas, and I hope to capture the vision of the director in *Salaar*," he says. The multilingual pan-India film produced by Vijay Kiragandur was announced on December 2. The makers, who plan to begin shoot by January-end, are in the process of zeroing in on the cast and crew, and are organising auditions in different regions.

What began with *Ugramm* has been an excellent journey with Prashanth Neel, and I have had a memorable experience working with the director in *KGF Chapter 1* and *Chapter 2* as well. I am now gearing up to begin my next. I am looking forward to working with Prabhas, and I hope to capture the vision of the director in *Salaar*

Bhuvan Gowda, cinematographer

A still from *Salaar*

Bhuvan Gowda

GURU SHISHYARU- ACTOR SHARAN'S NEXT IS A SPORTS FILM WRAPPED IN COMEDY

Tharun Kishore Sudhir, who is joining the project as a creative head, will also produce it in association with the actor's production house

A SHARADHAA

GURU SHISHYARU will be the next, after *Avatar Purusha,* from actor Sharan. And the team announced the title in a unique way, with veteran actor-producer and director Dwarakish unveiling the motion poster on Monday. The title has been drawn from the 1981 cult-classic comedy-drama that was produced by Dwarakish Chitra and starred Vishnuvardhan and himself. Reviving the title, it now has director Jadeshaa K Hampi coming up with a sports drama for the *Avatar Purusha* actor. The caption, 'Long Long Long ago in 1995', shows that the plot is set in that period.

Guru Shishyaru is being made by Sharan's production house, Laddoo Cinemas, in association with Tharun Kishore Kreatiivez, a production venture of *Robert* director Tharun Kishore Sudhir. The latter is also working as a creative head for *Guru Shishyaru,* which explores a conflict between a PT master and his students. "A tug of war between a teacher and his students is represented in our poster, and this forms the film's backdrop. Secondly, a PT master's best companion has always been a whistle, which also plays an important part in our movie," says Tharun.

Talking about the 1990s period when the film is set, he adds, "While the thought of the PT master was popular at that time, we also wanted to set the story during the pre-mobile phone era, and we felt it is best to place it in 1995."

Team Guru Shishyaru

While the title will take you back to the Dwarakish comedy and remind you of the popular song, *Doddavara ella jaanarala*, this movie will also bring back to the fore the popular local game of *Koko*. "*Guru Shishyaru* has a strong message wrapped in comedy," says Tharun Sudhir, adding, "This is a sports drama and it will not be one of Sharan's regular comedy outing."

Tharun says this storyline was discussed during the pre-lockdown period, when he was busy with Darshan's *Roberrt*. "The story was developed during the lockdown period, and since there was a lot of time, we were able to conceive it much faster. And once we realised it is not a regular comedy film, we decided to come on board for production instead of looking for producers," he reveals.

The team plans to begin the shooting in mid-January. The makers have brought on board music director Ajaneesh Loknath and cinematographer Sudhakar Shetty.

Sunny Leone starts shooting for Vikram Bhatt's *Anamika*

CE FEATURES

SUNNY Leone has started shooting for director Vikram Bhatt's new series *Anamika*.

Anamika is a 'gun-fu' action series which will have 10 episodes. The series will be shot in Mumbai. The first schedule will be wrapped mostly by the end of 2020.

Talking about the shoot, Vikram Bhatt said, "Due to lock down the process of shooting was on hold for some time. But the industry never stops working. So here we are back where we love to work." He added, "We have just started shooting with Sunny and it has been a great as well as an exciting start. The audience will have the delight of watching Sunny do a blend of martial arts with firearms. This action series is going to be a thrilling project."

Anamika is written and directed by Vikram Bhatt. It is produced under the banner of Loneranger by Vikram Bhatt and Krishna Bhatt.

Kartik Aaryan is Arjun Pathak in Ram Madhvani's *Dhamaka*

CE FEATURES

KARTIK Aaryan has introduced fans to his character Arjun Pathak in his upcoming thriller *Dhamaka*. The film, directed by Ram Madhvani, went on floors recently. It is produced by RSVP Movies.

An earlier poster of Dhamaka had depicted Kartik looking down at a burning sea-link in Mumbai. Like 2016's Neerja, Ram Madhvani's new feature also appears to be a disaster thriller. The director had also recently made Aarya, a crime-drama series featuring Sushmita Sen in the lead role.

Kartik Aaryan has multiple releases next year. He will be seen in two upcoming sequels — *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* and *Dostana 2* — followed by *Dhamaka*. According to a recent report, the actor has also signed his first superhero flick, to be helmed by Vasan Bala. The film will be an adaptation of the popular comic book character *Phantom*. Kartik's last release was *Love Aaj Kal,* co-starring Sara Ali Khan.

THE *BIGG BOSS* HOUSE AND THE EXTROVERT IDEAL

The *Bigg Boss* house, like the world itself, isn't a great place for introverts. We dig into this idea while in conversation with actors and mental health professionals

BHUVANESH CHANDAR

IT'S not exactly a kind world out there for introverts. Writer Susan Cain, in her book, Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking, speaks of how extroverted character is held up as an ideal in our world, and how there is "the omnipresent belief that the ideal self is gregarious, alpha, and comfortable in spotlight." Watching the *Bigg Boss* show, across languages, gain in popularity and its loud, dancing participants turned to celebrities, it's hard not to feel that this ideal is further drummed into our society. Watching this season's Bigg Boss Tamil contestants berate quiet participants like Aajeedh and Shivani, you have to ask what it must be like for an introvert to be part of a programme that thrives in showmanship. Actor Janani (best known for her roles in *Avan Ivan* and *Thegidi*), who was a part of *Bigg Boss Tamil 2,* realised quite quickly that the show isn't a great place for an introvert. "You have to be loud all the time, and you have to talk. That's what the show is about, that's what it sells, and that''s what the show's audience expects from a participant."

In *Bigg Boss Tamil 4,* two contestants, Shivani and Aajeedh, were nominated for eviction in the initial weeks because they were just too quiet. An oft-repeated criticism from well-meaning contestants would go, "You have still not opened up." Living in a space surrounded by cameras that telecast you to a million people must make it doubly harder for those who are not used to being gregarious. Add this to the pressures of being aware that the channel is the sole authority on what is to be shown and not. "Much like many others, I too formed many opinions on the basis of what I saw of participants during Bigg Boss Season 1. It's only after I participated in the show myself that I realised that a lot goes into the editing. When you condense 24 hours into an hour, what you end up seeing are the extroverted portions," says Janani. Her statement on the editing seems to resonate with contestants from other *Bigg Boss* shows as well. Actor David John, a former Bigg Boss Malayalam contestant—who doesn't identify as an introvert—points out that the show's editing can sometimes do the opposite as well. "All my friends know that I'm sufficiently extroverted, but they made me look like an introvert on the show. They showed me as this silent type who remained like a shadow," he says. It seems that for this show, even an extrovert isn't extroverted enough.

Actor Siva Balaji calls it a game where only the fittest ones survive. The introverted *Bigg Boss Telugu Season 1* winner says that there's constant pressure within the house. "I am introverted by nature and take my sweet time to be friends with people. It took me two weeks to get used to the conditions. Some may feel isolated, emotional and dejected. But ultimately, it's the survival of the fittest." And it appears that Siva Balaji managed to adapt to the show.

The expectation of the Bigg Boss shows arise from the knowledge that brooding doesn't make for great television. Hence, the pressure from the show to be someone you are not, and the expectation—emphasised by the host Kamal Haasan himself in *Bigg Boss Tamil*—that you "make the most of the opportunity". In other words, be loud, get seen.

For an introvert, this is easier said than done. Hemalatha Swamination, Psychologist and Founder of 4swithin, a city-based behavioural training institute, says that forcing introverts to be extroverts is quite comparable to the discomfort that extroverts feel when forced to be alone, or blocked from the spotlight. She shares that quite a few of her clients are those from the film industry. "In the industry, it's not just about your talent. It's about the pressure of portraying yourself in a certain way. While extroverts may be able to cope with this, it's demanding and exhausting for other types of people, who struggle to deal with it."

Networking is a mandatory requirement in the TV and film industry, and this pressure is rampant in the *Bigg Boss* house too, whose format itself makes it crucial that you establish relationships under the full blast of the cameras and in limited time—and hopefully in a way that makes it to the edited segment. Janani says that for actors looking to establish themselves, it's important to possess recall value. "You need to keep doing PR work. That's the only way a director will think of you when they have a role. I don't do this though," she admits. "I have made my peace with who I am."

Hemalatha says that not all is lost for introverts and that with just a few tricks, they can manage certain expectations without feeling pressurised to change their very nature. "In a pressurising situation, we start copying somebody else, and when we do that, conflict arises between who we are and the personality we copy. That becomes stressful. So, with certain skills and mentorship, this other personality will become like a hat. You can wear it when you need and drop it when you don't. It doesn't change who you are."

She adds that it is counter-productive for introverts to look to change who they are, in order to better survive in this world. It feels almost like advice that a couple of the *Bigg Boss* Tamil participants could well use. "Nothing is worth the cost of your self. Once you start prioritising yourself, it doesn't matter what anybody expects, or what the industry expects. You may suffer some losses—money, projects, whatever else—but you would not have lost what's most important: yourself. Nothing is worth more than who you are."

Janani has realised that succumbing to the pressure of becoming an extrovert is without gain. "Such a forced transformation is not beneficial," she says. Writer Cain, in fact, says that "Introverts living under the Extrovert Ideal, are like women in a man's world." Perhaps with this in mind, hopefully, some of us will be kinder to those in the *Bigg Boss* Tamil house who would otherwise be quickly labelled as 'boring'. As one of the contestants said of Aajeedh, "Like some of us are comfortable in our speech, he is comfortable in his silence."